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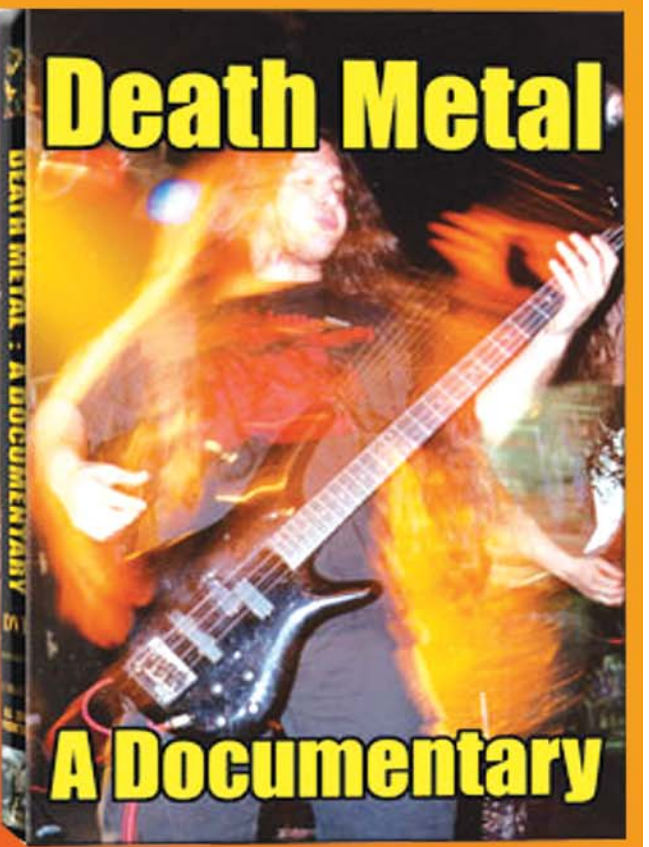




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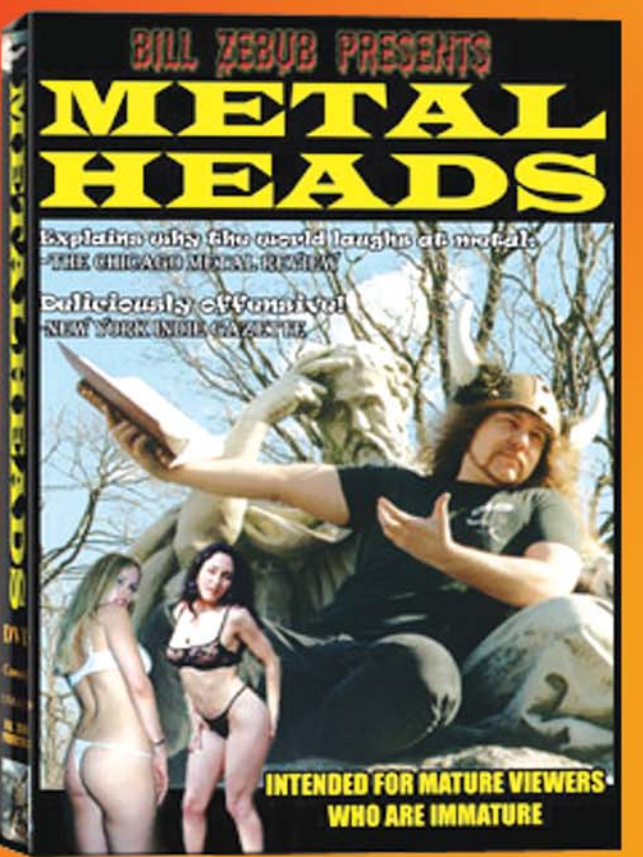
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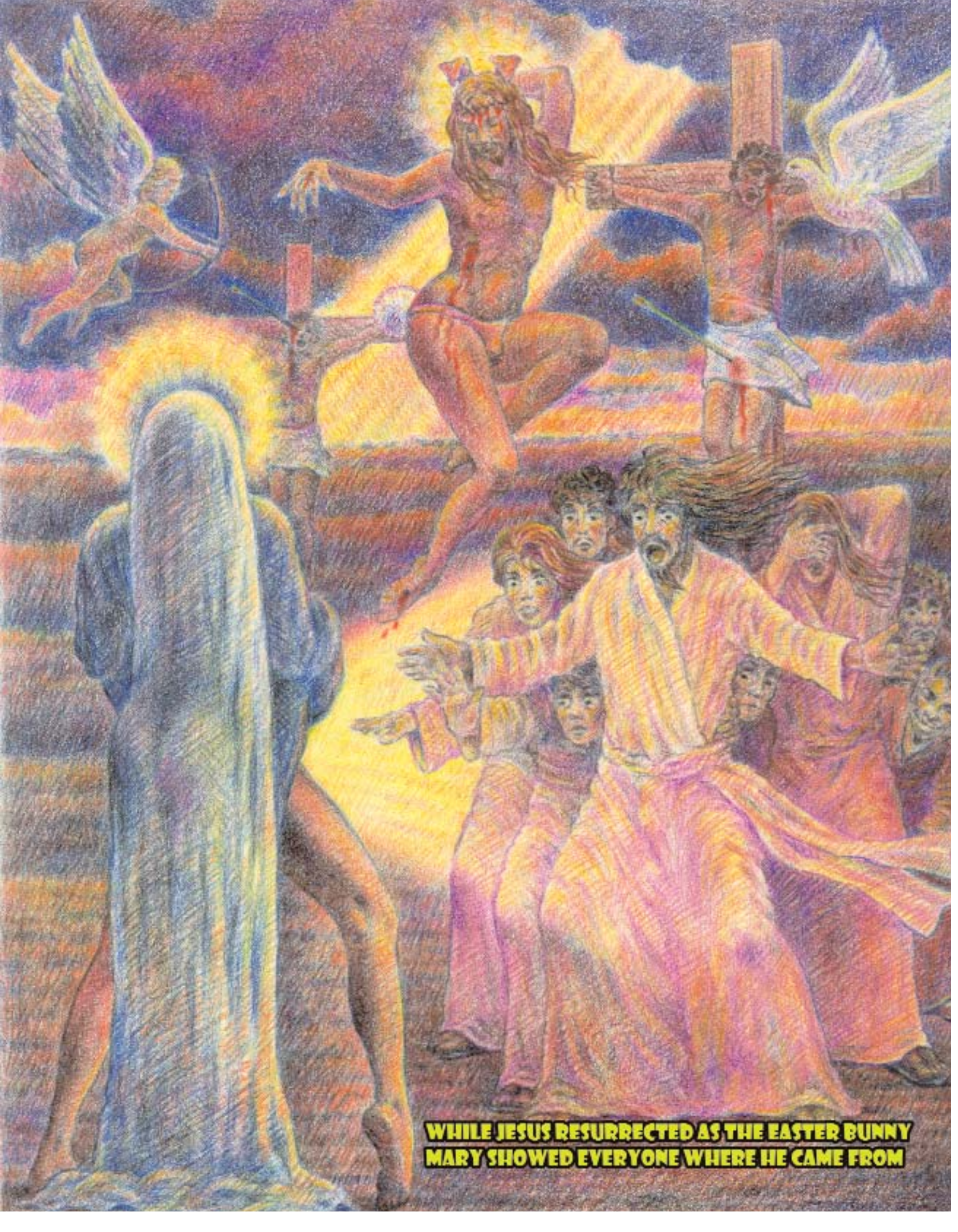
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Cannibal Corpse

It is always a lot of fun to interview George Corpsegrinder. Unfortunately we only had a half hour to get these pressing questions out of the way, and that meant that there was no time for the ritual in which I use every tactic imaginable to get him to sing "Mary had A Little Lamb" on tape, which he ultimately ends up doing (because no one can resist my will) - but for some reason there is ALWAYS a problem with the recording device and I end up never actually having his "song" on tape !

Interview with Corpsegrinder
Conducted by Bill Zebub

Why are you doing the interviews for the new album?
I'm not the only one doing the interviews for this new album.

But why are you doing interviews for this album? Don't you think that's wrong?
What do you mean?

Didn't Glen Benton do the vocals?
On this album?

Yeah! What the hell?! Did he say that you can speak on his behalf?
He's doing vocals on this album? That's news to me!

What are your influences?
Vocally?

Dude, I'm kidding.
Hey man, you never know, coming from you!

Did anybody ask you that, by the way? I know you've been doing phoners all day with cliché' people.
I almost couldn't believe that you asked me that. It's like, you should get a prize for being the millionth person to ask that question. But you never know with you.

Did you squash that war you had with Dark Funeral?
What war? I don't have a war.

You've got to read up on the press. I've got evidence that they don't like you.
What's that?

You posed for some pictures with them.
No. (pause) I might have.

I took them! You were smiling so innocently, and they gave you the finger.
You probably just made it look like that. You doctored it up!

I swear I didn't.
You know what their nickname is for me?

Stupid American?
No - it's gaygrinder. Ahriman calls me that.

What does the singer call you - you know, the guy who looks like a fat alcoholic housewife?
They all call me Gaygrinder.

I can't believe that you went around in the press and called him the fat Bo Derek.
Me? I didn't say that.

Yeah you did, when he got those gay braids in his hair like Bo Derek, and the flowers. You said that the only way he would be a "10" is if the scale is from 10 to 2 billion.
Look man, I'm not taking none of this seriously. You know I didn't say that.

I made it up, actually.
But I was serious about them calling me Gaugrinder.
You're gonna interview them again, right?

No. They're washed up.
Washed up?

Does the world really need another mediocre black metal album?
Dark Funeral rules!

Rules what? You don't even like black metal! What are you talking about?
I love Dark Funeral!

You love them as people. You've got to draw the line, George.
Of what?

See, I like your personality, and I also like Cannibal Corpse. If I didn't like Cannibal Corpse, I





would tell you. You have to be a man.
No, no, no - I like Dark Funeral!

I saw the way Pat manhandled you. You're just afraid of big tall metal people.
I am not! I'll kick all their asses!

Are you afraid of me?
I am. Can you hear me shaking? But seriously, dude, this is the truth - if you ever talk to Lord Ahriman, ask him about the song he's writing about me.

Get out of here!
I'm serious.

Michael Jackson must be kicking himself in the head because he had surgery to make himself look white so that he could sell albums, but these days you have to look black. Are you planning to get your nose flattened?
My nose is already big, but it's not flat. It points out.

Do you have a black ass?
I have a big booty.

Have you been practicing?
Practicing what?

Mary Had a Little Lamb. Do you know it by now?
I was ready to do it at the L'Amours show, but you didn't show up!

There's always a problem. I swear! This is the curse of the lamb! Every time that you actually sing it, either the tape magically stops recording, th batteries die, or something even more bizarre happens! I'll get you on tape one of these days!
Come to any show on this tour. I'll do it.

Will you wear a costume?
What kind of costume?

Mary?
The blessed virgin?

I guess she would be the Mary, since she had a lamb, and they are mindless followers. If you could go back in time to when Mary was pregnant with Jesus, how would you talk her into getting an abortion?
Well, as his head came out, I would push it back in.

For the second coming out of the closet of Jesus, what would his new boyfriend be like?
One of those queer eye for a...

One of the Dark Funeral guys?
No! It's that show, Queer Eye for a Straight Guy! You know what I'm talking about!

I had no idea that Dark Funeral has a television show.
It's some show!

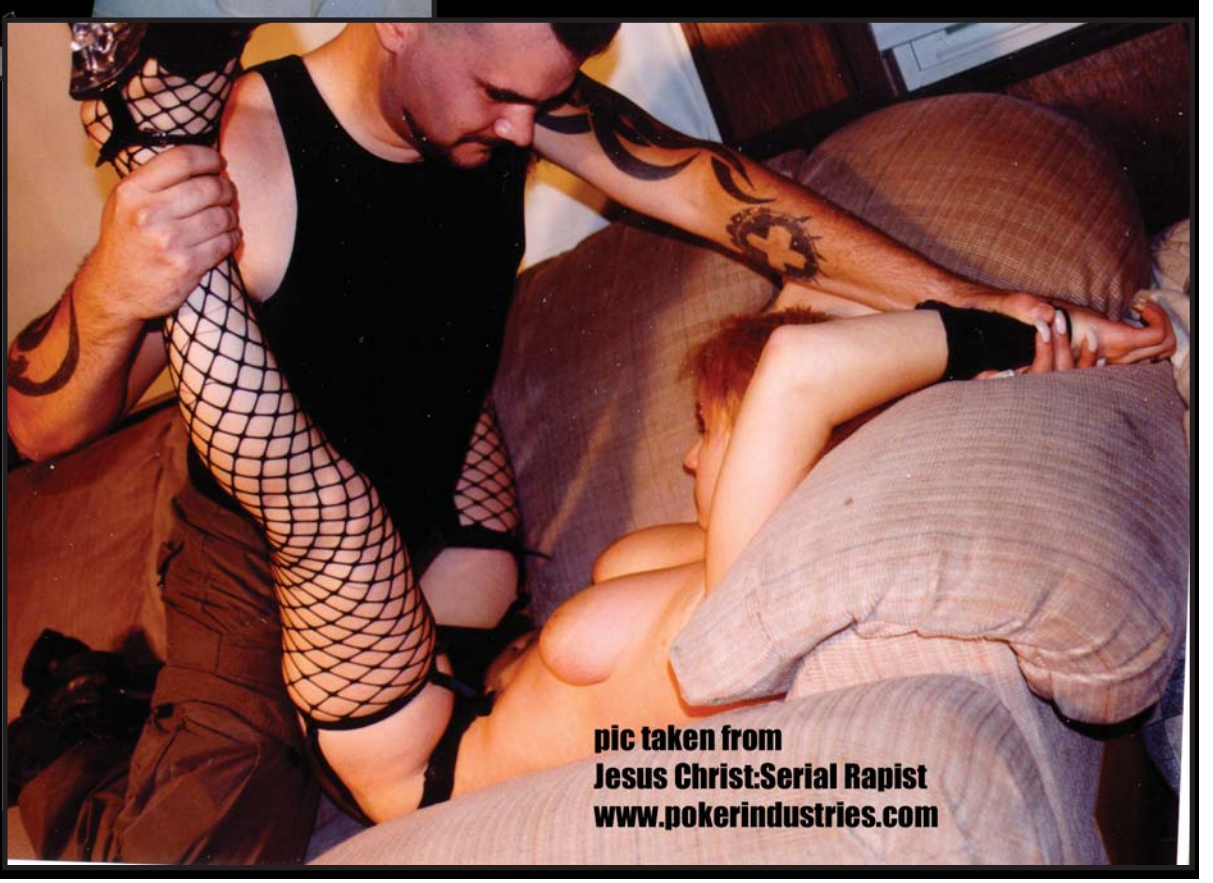
SOME show? You seem to know quite a lot about it.
Ah! I'm gonna get hung for this!

Actually, "queerbashed" is the punishment for being gay. Hanging is for black people. Fags just get queerbashed, they don't get hung.
I'm not queer!

Then why do you watch that show?
I don't! My wife watches it!

Your wife is a guy?
No! My wife watches the show!

You're still married, huh?
Yeah.





Even after your tour activities?
What tour activities?

Weren't you going to put out a video of Cannibal Corpse groupies?
No, but there's nothing wrong with tits.

I would never put tits in a video, personally.
Yeah, like you don't have any tits in your movies! I've seen them!

So what's the secret of the long-term relationship? How do you keep your sex life alive? Do you pretend she's somebody else?
No,

When you are having sex, do you ever call out Ahriman's name?
No. (indecipherable)

Do you ever use the Oyster as an aphrodisiac?
Don't fuck with the Oyster!

Have you ever performed anal?
With Ahriman?

No, with the female wife.
(indecipherable)

I'm just curious because you're a role model. So what's the most bizarre sexual position you ever performed with your female wife?
Missionary. It's totally different now that I did all that other stuff.

What was the reason why you punched Warrel Dane in the face? I heard that Nevermore couldn't play that night!
We just saw those guys.

Really? Did he forgive you?
I didn't see him.

So getting back to how your parents escaped the concentration camp, you have a song about the Nuremberg trials on the new album.
Which song?

Blunt Force Castration.
That's not about that.

I read in David Duke's book, "My Awakening" that the Nazi war criminals, if the term "war criminal" really makes any sense, especially since the Allies committed atrocities too... anyway, I heard the Nazi's were forced to confess, and many of them had their testicles smashed beyond repair. I just think that it's bold to side with a guy like David Duke. Most metalheads just want to keep their white supremacy ideas a secret. You are the first to come out of the closet.
Come on! I don't have anything to do with any of that shit!

Are you really mad at Sharlee D'Angelo and Peter Steele because they are considered to be more handsome than you?
Look at me! I rock!

Yeah, but you're married. Girls don't like that, or are you after the naughty house-wrecking girls?
(indecipherable)

Have you ever had a stalker?
Uh...

Did you have to get a restraining order against Chris Barnes?
(indecipherable)

Is he like a girl who got dumped and wants to know all about the new girl? Does he play that same game with you? Does he want to know what you have that he doesn't have?
Who knows what he wants?

Maybe he wants to be black. He's almost there with those dreadlocks. Are you going to do any Cannibal Corpse covers?
(indecipherable, but I remember him specifying the kind of songs that Cannibal Corpse would NEVER cover)

Will you perform Mary Had a Little Lamb when you play in Brooklyn, just for me?
Absolutely not! I wanted to tell you, people have been asking me about that!

See? Are you aware of my influence?
Yeah! When I first did it, I didn't think much of it, but then people started asking me to do it.

Would you do it if the front row chants it?
The rest of the guys don't know it.

Would you do it when you hear that I am dead, as a tribute to me?
I would drink a beer and piss in your name.



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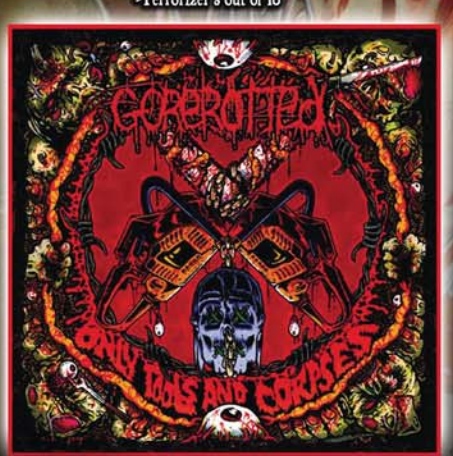
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If you want to get exposure, be a man and buy an ad. You have to spend money to make money, you asshole communist !

This magazine is NOT affiliated with any organizations.

There is no political agenda because we don't know anything about politics. We hate people who deem themselves to be political.

All religions are ridiculous, and if you are religious, FUCK OFF !

This magazine covers extreme music. If you are faggy enough to be offended by the contents of this magazine, it is a sign that you do not belong in the metal scene.

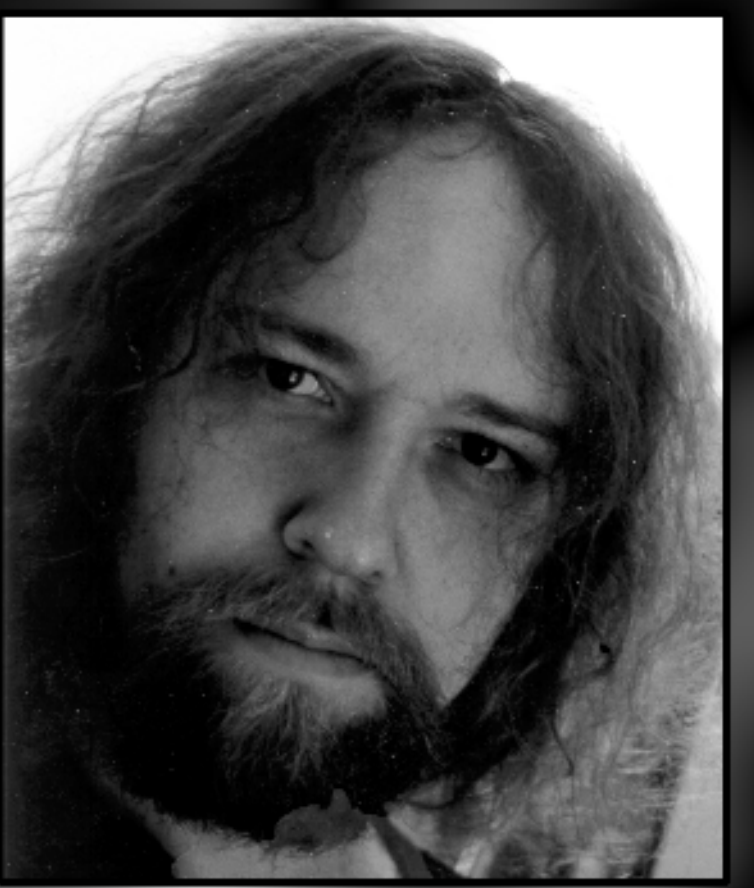
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DISCLAIMER

This magazine is written in a BRUTALLY SARCASTIC style. All material is meant to be laughed at. Nothing was done to be malicious.

If you can't laugh at yourself, don't bother reading this mag.

If your teachers have informed you that you have poor reading skills, don't read this mag.



Die Verbannten Kinder Evas

Love of operatic vocals can make an otherwise bland album something pleasant to hear. That works very well for the many styles of metal.. If you first tasted operatic vocals within the heavier spectrum of music, perhaps the gateway led you to other forms. If you are such a wanderer, then find yourself soothed on these shores.

When I first heard your voice I lost the world. I felt a pain in my chest and my breath was caught in the cage of my lungs. My hand stopped the song, and I prepared to hear you again in a more fitting way. Plugging in the most expensive headphones on the market, turning off the lights, and laying on my bed, I closed my eyes and heard you again. Your voice touched me deeply. Yes, you are schooled in the art of singing. But beyond the techniques that you have sharpened, there is in your voice a sorrow that has drawn me. Please tell me that this sorrow you bear is real, and not an act. You affected me more than you can ever know. I would like to hear that my emotions were drawn by an honest lure. Tell me that your voice is more than melody. Tell me it is a soul that I hear.

I absolutely agree with you that that for certain kinds of music it is very important to create the right atmosphere to be able to understand the feelings inside of it. Of course it is even more important to create such an atmosphere when I sing and interpret a tune with as much passion as possible. Music is for me a kind of valve where I can let of all the pain I feel inside of me sometimes. While I sing a tune I really forget the world around me and only the tune becomes reality. Some people act out their feelings and sorrows by aggressions or sports, but music is my way to deal with this. For me sad and depressive music is the best way for this; in opposite to the common opinion that depressive music makes a person depressive I think that it is the best form of music to get ride of those negative thoughts. In contrary happy, commercial music makes me depressive, because it is just a fake mask in front of a crying face.



I only have "In Darkness Let Me Dwell" - but I crave everything that has your voice. Your voice is beauty. It is no exaggeration to say that I often found myself not breathing, frozen in emotion. I am paralyzed. If only I could remain in your spell forever. You take me away from time. So now I ask if there is anything else that I can buy. Everything that you have done I want to own. I would pay with my life if that is the price, so long as I could hear you as I die. I have written in a secret place that if there is a funeral service for me, it is your music that must be played while I lay in the casket. Even those who hate me would be made to weep. So tell me, what can I buy from you that I do not already have?

Sorry but for now there is only one DVKE CD existing where I sing, but you will be able to hear my voice on the new CD of DVKE which is already composed but yet not recorded. This CD will be called “Dusk And Void Became Alive” and it will be even more pathetic and deep. The vocals,as well as the orchestra sounds, will be more polyphonic and complex. This time we will still use the lyrics from Shelley and Dowland, but in addition we will add some lyrics from a friend of us from Siberia who is a very talented poet and really understood the atmosphere of DVKE. But there is a song of the black metal band “Summoning” existing where you can hear my voice. This song is called “Where Hope And Daylight Die” and it can be found on the CD named “Stronghold”.

After repeated listening, I was able to open up the CD booklet to discover what the lyrics were. I had not done this earlier because your voice was all that mattered to me - and of course your music was too intense for me to sit and read along. So I read the lyrics when the music was not playing, and I fell into deeper admiration for you when I learned your words. Let me cite some for the readers of this interview: "The color from the flower is gone, which, like thy sweet eyes, smiled on me. The odor from the flower is flown, which breathes of thee and only thee. A withered, lifeless, vacant form - it lies on my abandoned breast and mocks the heart which yet is warm, with cold and silent rest. I weep, my tears revive it not. I sigh, it breathes no more on me. Its mute and uncomplaining lot is such as mine should be." How fitting for me to read this, for you did not intend for me to fall in love with you, but that is what I feel, and although your voice is my heaven, love for you is also painful for me to bear, and I envy stones and anything barren of thought, for they can never carry the woes now laid upon me. The lyrics were written by an unknown person, correct? I am trying to discover the origins. Were the words that you put into music by the 1600's by Donland? Is there an opera based on these words? No matter the answer, please tell of the path these poems have taken. You chose your lyrics well.

I agree with you that the words from the song “On A Fade Violet” are really amazing and touched my heart very much; but you are wrong, these words are from Percy Bysshe Shelley, the husband from Mary Shelley who wrote Frankenstein, and the text is taken from a poem with the same name as the song. We really search for a long time to find the perfect lyrics for the music of DVKE, and we were really happy to discover the works of Shelley in an old dusty book in the shelf of the parents of my partner. By the way. Shelley died in the same place in Italy where I am going to spend my next holidays in a few weeks. I wouldn’t describe me as a poet, but as a musician, so I need the help of talented poets to create the right symbiosis between music and lyrics.

In the CD booklet there are no lyrics for "From Silent Night" - is it possible to obtain them?

This time the lyrics are from “Downland” who



was a lute-song composer of the Renaissance and also wrote the lyrics for his songs. FORTUNATELY we didn't know his tunes, but only had a booklet with his lyrics inside. I said "fortunately" because otherwise we would have been too confused by the original tune to write a new one for it. But anyway the lyrics where so dark and deep that they were again perfect for DVKE. Unfortunately I could not find the mentioned booklet, so I can not send you the lyrics. Maybe I will find it soon. The pictures of the booklet were made by my own in the Czech castle called "Perstein" but I guess you know the castle. For all who don't - it is the same castle which was taken for the film "Nosferatu" with Klaus Kinsky and Isabelle Adjani. This was a real original medieval castle without any unnecessary squiggles, which normally were added to castles during the decades which passed in the meantime. Many fantasy-films were also made in this castle. When my mother was working as a make-up artist, she often was there to prepare the actors for the roles.

There is yet another trait of yours that binds my heart to you. You were also born in Czechoslovakia, and like me, you also moved to a new country while very young. Do you permit me to dream that you and I will both return to our homeland and be wed? Yes, I know it is a dream, and I will hear your lyrics in a special way because of this dream of mine. "Oh sweet love, help her hands". Or am I the dying Tristan? "Grief, alas, though all in vain, her restless anguish must reveal. She alone my wound shall know... though she will not heal.

Of course I will never deny my Czech roots. I love the Czech Republic very much but I am living in Austria, my sister in Germany, the whole family mother sides in Czech, my best friend in Siberia, and I don't choose my beloved because of the nationality or address. For me the term "homeland" has got nothing to do with some geographical borderlines, but with the people I love. I am also in love with the Slavonic mythology.

Have you ever heard "Elend". If not, I would be happy to send you their albums. I do not know of a way to touch you as you have done to me, so I struggle to discover an art by which your heart can be swayed.

I have two CDs of this band and liked the song "Eclipse" from the CD "Lecons de Ténèbres" best. Have you ever heard the Russian band "Rakoth"? It belongs to my faves. Do you know the national gothic rock band "XIII Stoleti" of Czech?

I have Rakoth, which I thought was mediocre, but I have not heard the gothic band you speak of. When you sing in a live performance, do members of the audience fall to their knees in painful weeping. Does the light from the stage reflect in tears? Is it possible for anyone to have a dry eye when you reveal your beauty?

I really don't hope so, because otherwise I would have to stop the concert and look what illness might has attacked the poor person. I really would lose my concentration if something like that would happen.

I swear henceforth to be your faithful servant. Whatever it is that your voice is recorded on, I will buy dozens of and gift people with your singing, and I will give you free advertisements in my magazine forever. Whenever I am on the radio, I will play your music. In truth, each time I have played "From Silent Night" on the radio, I always received phone calls about it. Listeners were a bit disoriented when I told them the name of the band and how to get the album, but they faithfully wrote down the name as I spelled it for them. Until I die, I will do whatever you ask of me. Has anyone else been conquered by you as I have been?

No - honestly, I never heard such compliments before, and this is also the reason why I am a bit confused and abashed right now. Anyway thank you very much for you commendations; I will send you the new CD as thanks as soon as it is released. I hope that this will be soon, today I started to record my vocals for the new CD, but I can not tell for now how long the recording will take. I know the band name is not so easy for a non German speaking person - it means "the banished children of eve" and it was taken from a Renaissance Choral booklet.

Your website does not seem to be up and running. Is there another in its place? Please share with the readers how they can learn more about you. Forget me not. The flower that smiles today, tomorrow dies.

I know that the original page does not exist anymore. The webmaster got married some time ago and now has not so much time. But anyway we decided to make a page on our own. We already gathered some pictures with we think will suit very well for the new DVKE homepage. It will be the same address like the old one.

www.dvke.info



Notre Dame

Snowy Shaw seems to change appearance with every album. He is best known for his work with King Diamond, an achievement which is difficlut to top, but from what I understand, he is developing a live show that will shed all images of the past. Read on...

Interview with Snowy Shaw
Conducted by Bill Zebub

What does "maestro" mean?
I don't know. You tell me.

The reason I ask is because I want to know what you do on the album. Do you just do the drums? Do you just sing? On the credits, Snowy Shaw is listed as "Maestro".

That is from "Nightmare before Christmas", right? It's pretty much that I'm in charge. I write all of the material. I come up with everthing. It's MY band. I mean, I do the album covers as well. (pause) Hello?

Sorry. I'm doing five different things here. I actuallyhave to hold a microphone to the earpiece now because my new answering machine doesn't record phone conversations. I am recording you on a 4-track, so i guess I am the maestro here.

(laughs) Ok, I didn't hear any thing after I finished. (laughs again)

So in life, you study more than just drums. You are the consumate musician.

Yeah, I play drums with "Dream Evil". I write songs, play guitar, and do some vocals as well. Pretty much I'm mostly interested in WRITING music, so it doesn't really matter which instrument I play, but it's easier if I sing the way it comes across in Notre Dame than to find a singer who could be that fucked up to deliver what i want out of Notre Dame's music.

Is Notre Dame a full-time job for you?

No, it's not a full-time job. It's not even a job. I'm involved... not in a COUPLE of bands, but I have different projects going on. Right now it's Notre Dame, Dream Evil, and other projects. I don't have an ordinary job or anything. I am focusing all of my time on music - whatever it is - mixing music, taking photos, making album covers, or writing songs.

Did you command Vampirella to go topless?

Yes I did. (laughs) Why do you think I call myself "Maestro"? (laughs) If you want to be in the band, you have to be totally nude.



I had been surprised to find out that Theatres Des Vampires came out, but them, as I was preparing for this interview, Osmose sent me yet another album. So is it my imagination, or have you been writing really fast?

It's not fast at all. I mean, Des Vampires came out in 2000. So it's just poor distribution that you got it only now. The last time we talked, you got a re-issue with bonus tracks from 1998. So we're off in timing a little bit over here.

Ok, I have to get a little better at judging how much time actually passes. In Germany, are you called "Schneit"?

What is that?

Snow.

(laughs hard)

I think you should have expected questions like that.

Yeah, I was a bit - not nervous - but I was a bit laid back because I knew you were offending people.

have you ever considered doing a cover of "Return of the Vampire"?

No. never. is it a good song?

It's a Mercyful Fate song.

Yeah, I know. I haven't heard it since '93 or something. Maybe because of the title, but I don't think it's such a great song. I mean, Mercyful Fate has so much better songs than that.

It doesn't have the THEATRE feel, but "Into the Coven" didn't have it either. Was that actually the first song that Notre Dame ever did?

Yeah, it was not the first song, but the first song on CD.

I remember the last time we talked you said you liked to hit the drums very hard.

I never said that I LIKED to hit the drums very hard. It just comes out that way. it depends on the kind of music that I play. I mean, with Dream Evil, I become a lumberjack when I play drums with them because that kind of music is easy to play and you don't have to sit back and focus. You can just bash away.

On the fast parts of Notre Dame songs, are the drums triggered or are you a lumberjack?

It's not me playing drums there, so...

It's not late here, but I usually sleep all day.

Yeah, I asked you at the beginning of the interview. You sound a bit sleepy. I usually wake up around two. I'm very much like a vampire, i guess. I prefer to stay up all night because you don't get disturbed.

Plus, at the bars you seem like a virile man because everyone else is tired.

Yeah, you come across as a superman or something. You can stay up so long. You must be on drugs or something.

Do you remember that I had asked you if you heard the band Immortal. Your extreme vocals are similar, and I just found it strange that you had never heard the,

I don't pay much attention at all to what other people do. I barely listen to music at all. Once in a while I hear what's on the radio. They (Immortal) used to be labelmates, and I heard a song here and there or something.

That's my favorite part of Notre Dame, when you go into voclas like that.

I think I sing really differently in each song. I try to do the best - what fits the music.

Why do you think that Germans made zombies out of cuckoo birds?

(laughs) I'm Swedish and you're American. Why are we talking about Germans?

Well there are some Scandinavians who lick the asses of Germans, Like Theatre of Tragedy changed their style. You don't listen to music so I don't know if youknow about them.

I heard the name.

But do you know anythign about the cuckko bird?

Cuckoo bird? No.

Do you know what a cuckoo clock is?

No.

It's propaganda from Germany. In Germany, there is a bird called a cuckoo bird, and in German clocks, they put mummified cuckoo birds and they come out every hour.

Yeah. I've seen that. So that's a cuckoo bird?

Yeah, but the cuckoo bird is a German bird. This bird - it may sound like I am making this up - but it doesn't lay eggs in its own nest. (Snowy keeps laughing the whole time). I know it sounds funny. It finds nests of other birds. And it makes a cuckoo sound. When other birds hear the cuckoo, the feed the bird as if it's their own baby. So I was going to ask you...

If I am a cuckoo bird?

No. If you know why Germans use cuckoo birds to spread Nazi ideas to the rest of the world?

(Snowy dies laughing) Where is this heading?

I know that Germany had problems with Norway and never conquered Norway.

But we are in Sweden. We just let them pass. we just stood there bowing. We are such pussies. It's disgusting.

So you don't need to have cuckoo clocks in Sweden. But in America, ever since cuckoo clocks have come here, there have been neo-Nazi groups forming, and they don't know why. Just like birds don't know why they feed the cuckoo bird. But it's the cuckoo noise. So do you think that's how Hitler rose to power? With the power of the cuckoo?

(laughing) Ok, so that's the secret how he had the world at his feet? Because of his clocks?

I think it's something in Germany that makes its creatures want to conquer other nests.

(laughs) And this has relation to me or to Notre Dame?

Well, you're a man of the world. I mean, you are in Sweden but you have French theatre as a theme. I'm wondering if you know about German themes too.

uhhhhh... Not really, no. I'm a bit interested, or influenced, for Notre Dame's sake, about cabaret and stuff from the '20's. It's decadent and bizarre and interesting. I don't know much about Germany.

In the past you worked with Messiah Marcolin in bands. Have you ever consid-





ered asking him or any other metal celebrities to make a guest appearance on an album?

I played with Messiah in Memento Mori and a couple of bands, I think. But THIS album that you received now - Michael Wead is playing a solo on the second song. I usually have people play guitar solos or something like that. Michael Denner was playing stuff on the Mercyful Fate tribute song.

In America, we have childrens' breakfast cereals, and one of them is Cocoa Puffs, with Sonny the Cuckoo Bird. In all of the cereal boxes, there is a surprise package.

Like a German swastika? (laughs) In plastic. (more laughter)

(I laugh) Yes. So Notre Dame is like a childrens' breakfast cereal. It's in the cuckoo family because every album has a surprise musician. That's what I'm saying.

Not really, not every album. But it's nice. He's been begging me to guest solo for so long. It's not a standard thing that on every album we will have guest musicians.

Is Notre Dame a live band?

Yeah. We are preparing a super stage show now and are booked for a couple of festivals this summer. I will try to get us booked as much as possible in the spring. It helps now that we released the albums. I can send that out.

Why was "Vlad the Impaler" on an album again?

Vlad was on that first mini-CD that we released on this small Norwegian label, and they had very limited distribution and so on. We also used that on Theatre Des Vampire. It's kind of confusing, I guess. That is why it ends up on three albums, actually.

I just wanted to know if there was anything different about that song. King Diamond will also be in this same issue. Is there anything that you would like to say to him?

I can't think of anything.

Have you made Herve from osmose very happy?

No. I think he's very pleased to get rid of me, and the feeling is mutual. (laughs)

Really? So this is...

...the last album, yeah. It's no hard feelings... personal, but I really want to move on and be on a label with better distribution. It's very hard for people to even find the album. I probably said that the last time we spoke.

Yes, so nothing has changed.

I don't want to spend all this time working and so on, and nobody can find the album. It really pisses me off. It's not the money shit. It's just disturbing that you're sitting there, bleeding, to produce an album, and people can't get a hold of it.

Especially with a name like Snowy Shaw. People should know that the album is out.

Yeah, people can read about it, but when they go to record stores they SHOULD be able to find it. But you were asking about Herve. He seemed to be happy with this new material. He likes the music.

Why did you decide to do a cover of "These Boots Were Made for Walking"?

That si something that we did a couple of years ago, live. We usually pick up cover of songs. We planned to do "Money, Money, Money" with ABBA because it's a bit cabaret. I prefer to choose songs like this. It's nothing that you really expect from a band. I think it's boring to pick like an Iron Maiden song or something and do it just a bit darker or something.

Or a Mercyful Fate song.

Yeah. I think that's pretty boring too. That's why I totally fucked up the arrangement of it, so nobody could even notice it's the same song.

Do you speak any French?

Not really. A couple of words.

How about the Anne Rice version of vampires? Does that have anything to do with Notre Dame?

I'm very influenced by the movie, actually.

Is there anything different about the way you recorded this album than in the past? I know you relied on friends and stuff like that, in mixing.

We have a very limited budget so we have to try to solve the problems and to have the time available that we need, to record the album. It's mostly done in my home studio and mixed with some old friend. So it's not a very professional studio that was used. But hopefully that will change in the future?



What do you think of Kim Ruzz? Was he a unique drummer?

I don't know. Maybe he was, for his time. I haven't thought tham much about it. I think the whole Mercyful Fate were unique when they came. They were doing something progressive, mixing Judas Priest with Iron Maiden and some Black Sabbath stuff.

Did you ever get your hands on any of the demos, espeially when you were involved with King Diamond?

Do you mean the earlier tapes?

A demo of the album before makign the album? I am not asking to buy them from you.

I wasn't really interested in that stuff, really. I mean, I totally love Melissa and Don't Break the Oath, but when Mercyful Fate got back together, we were playing these songs from the first Ep and I never heard those songs. I didn't like them either, except Nuns Have no Fun was kind of cool. So I wasn't really interested in demos from those albums. I think everything's pretty much released now on different compilations. He put out this Black Rose thing, I think.

Do you still get questions from people about your King Diamond days? Does that aggravate you?

I'm kind of proud to have been in the band. Real fun. But you have to move on, I think.

So you'll never come back?

You should never say never. I don't know. They asked me a couple of times but I really haven't been interested. Maybe it's a thing about money. It depends. Maybe in the future. Maybe when I realize that I am a loser and that I can't do it on my own I would go back 9laughs).

I actually heard that one of your other projects was a band called "Support Group". Is there any truth to that?

(laughs) No. It's super group.

No, no. it's "Support Group". It's got you, Pete Black, Mickey Dee, Timmy Grabber...

So if Mickey Dee is in the band, should I play trombone?

No, you're the singer.

(laughs) I never heard that rumor!

I just created that. I like to start rumors, so if I ever see them in print i then know the full power of my influence.

So we're supposed to form a band called "Support Group"? (still laughing)

Yeah. In America, if a bunch of people sahre the same pain, then they have a support group in which they talk about their experiences. So the one common thing that you would all have is that you are former members of King Diamond and Mercyful Fate.

Yeah, has-beens.

Well, not has-beens. I wonder if it is like being exiled. Do you feel banished?

It's a good idea, but I don't think Pete Black plays any guitar at all. I think he's a millionaire now, with those pyramid schemes.

I thought it was from selling drugs.

No, I don't think he is selling drugs. I heard he is very rich now.

You and Mickey Dee are very different in personality. He's an egotist and you are very down to earth. It's funny because you are considered the more technical drummer - the more artistic drummer, yet he has the ego that YOU should have.

Yeah, but i am a very egotistical guy too.

You've got to show it more in the interview.

Whatever. He's a very cocky guy. He's very self-centered. I am too, but maybe I don't come across that way.

He's also girl-sized, so maybe he has the Napoleon complex, which YOU should have, because it's French.

What do you mean? Napoleon complex? because he's short? I've seen that with a lot of people, but I don't think that goes for Mickey. I think he's a very funny guy because he likes to talk about himself all the time. I do too. (laughs) It's my favorite subject. He's not trying to hide or something. I think he's a super nice guy.

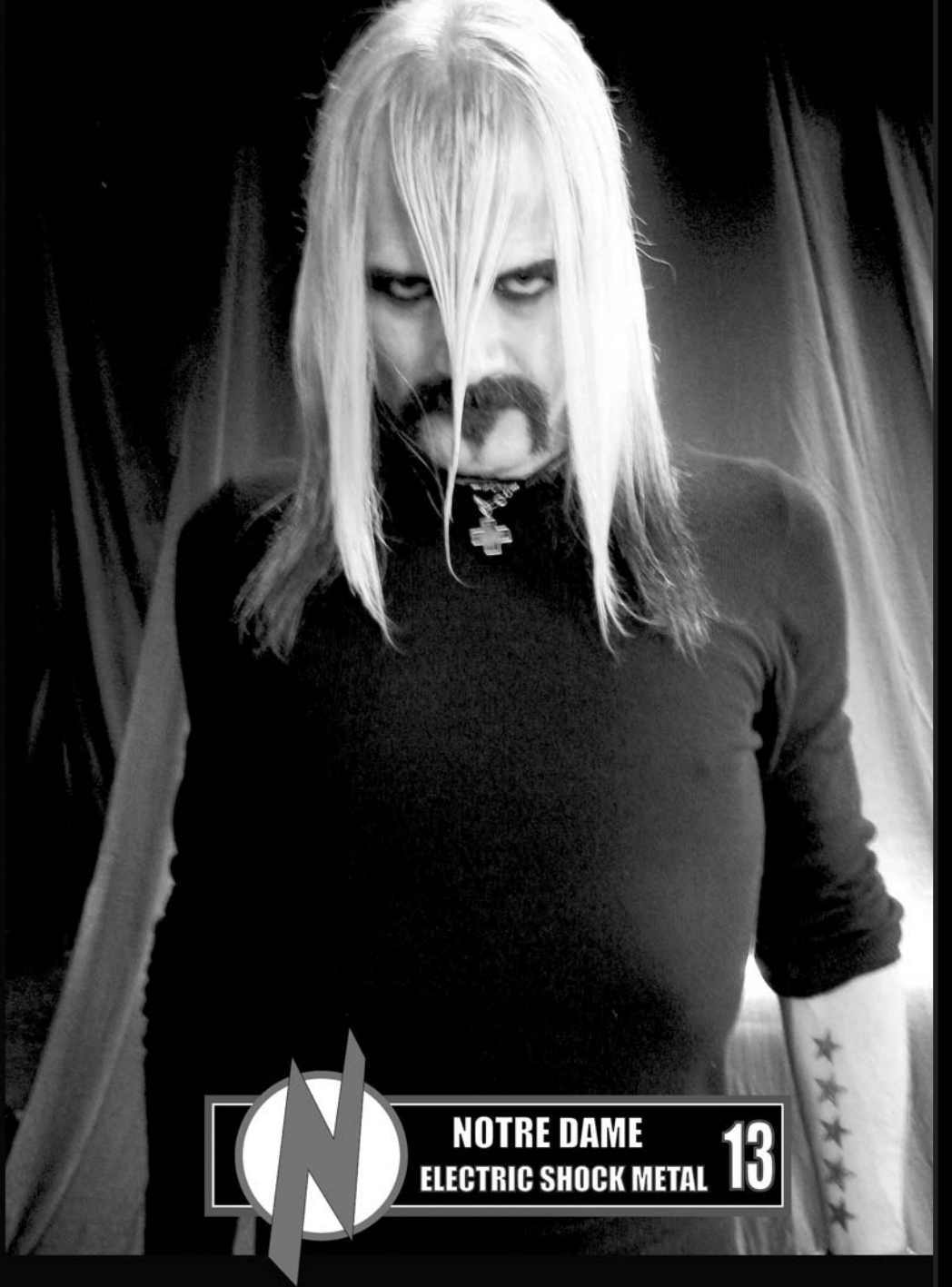
Your Notre Dame band has a theme that you didn't quite get out of your system yet. I was wondering if there are other forms of music that are in the Snowy Shaw storm that are about to get released.

Yeah, a lot of music. I have some projects that have been laying around that I wanted to do for a couple of years, but I still haven't found the time to do it. I'm very much into the '70's - Sweet and David Bowie and stuff like that.

Have you received any feedback from your music being in my movies, right?

No, I haven't heard anything about it.





Is Sweden being infested by non-Swedish people?
Absolutley.

And is it destroying the Swedish culture?
Definitely. Let me tell you about today. I was sitting here, recording some bass, and I heard outside of my window, boom! - two cars crashing together. So i looked out, and I saw these two Somalia guys...

Niggers. We call them niggers in America.
(laughs hard) Yeah, ok, whatever - they just got out of the car and ran away. I got outside. I couldn't catch them in time. I didn't see the other car. The other people could be dead, for all I know. It's really fucking disgusting. When the police came I really wanted to go - I know where they went - to some negro club or whatever it is. I really wanted to pick them out. Why did they escape? Maybe they don't have a permit to stay in Sweden, or they had no driver's license, or they had drugs, or they stole the car. It's really fucking annoying, I think.

It's good to see that niggers act the same no matter which country they're in.
(laughs hard)

When are people going to wake up? Maybe nice black people are OK, but niggers should definitely be put to sleep.
I'm really concerned about how we are acting in Sweden. Just like I said about the Nazis marching through Sweden to get to Norway - standing there and welcoming them or bowing - it's just what we're doing right now and getting slaughtered by immigrants. Maybe I come across as a fucking Nazi now, but that is not true. I'm really starting to get worried here now.

There's really no nice way to talk about a culture getting destroyed.
I don't think it's about the people in general, or the immigrants, or whatever it is. We are just such lame pussies. The politicians are totally fucked up here. People come from Astonia, for example, because they suffer from poverty or whatver it is - and some guy just killed an old lady just to wind up in prison because it's a luxury being in a Swedish prison compared to what he had in his home country.

It's too late.
It's fucking annoying!

It's just sad. I was wondering which country to escape to. There is no such country. As long as you allow negroes to get get money form the goverment for simply being a nigger, then...
How do you talk like this in a magazine? Or is this off the record?

I don't really care if I get killed. My life is already over.
(laughs) yeah, but are you actually going to PRINT this?!

Yes. Are you afraid?
I don't think I said anthing bad.

Wait, let me just rest my hand.
You have to brush your hair?

No, I have to rest my hand. I have to hold up a microphone to the phone. Anyway, it's funny that the people who call me racist are people who don't live by blacks or spics, but I live with them. These are my neighbors.
Mine too.

Just the other day, the police came to break up a little disaggreement that I had with the entire neighborhood. I am very happy to say that THEY called the police on ME! I have no problem with cool people, but a large percentage of these people really don't need to be alive.
But what I'm saying is, I'm not picking at different people, or jews or negroes - it doesn't matter really. I don't care about that. In ten year's time, I've seen Sweden go so downhill. I cannot even begin to describe it because it's so much different. Everybody's so fucking lame! The politics is so lame! I don't know what to say. I get really pissed off when we talk about this. And you're not supposed to say that. People cannot say that on debates in TV or they are considered to be racist.

In America, when people say things like that, they are edited to appear stupid. Here it's the opposite of the Nazi party, but they are using the exact same tactics.
It's really scary because nobody dares to stand up for what they believe in. You see thatevery time they vote for government. If some party says even a little bit of that, like we should be more careful who we let into our country - they get complaints from other parties, but that is actually what people say in their home, in their kitchen.



I don't actually say anything new. I'm a clown. I repeat what I hear. Comedy is a social mirror. So if people are shocked by what they read in my magazine, then they are not in the real world. This is stuff that is said in the real world. If a person's only social interaction is in classes and group discussions, then yeah - all they exchange are propaganda ideas. But real people who have real conversations talk this way.

You live in this area (ed - with the bad examples of minorities). But people who don't share your opinion are on the countryside or something. Yeah, I've seen that so much with friends too. If I complain about something, they say, "Well what's wrong with that?" But, "You don't know because you live out in the forest and you don't know shit! You don't see the problems"

Well hopefully when people read interviews like this they will snap out of their brainwashing. There is a lot of manipulation, especially in music television shows. They spread the message of being blind, and not to really think/ But anyway, getting back to Notre Dame instead of Berlin (we both laugh), have you ever thought about incorporating other parts of French history - like instead of the 1920's, going back to when Pope Innocent III was in power and he ordered armies to kill over 30,000 people in France - women, elderly, children - amd many of them were burned alive - just because they didn't believe that Jesus was the son of god?

I didn't know that.

Is that going to be part of the next album?

Yeah. Probably. But I probably left all this French fascination. You don't hear too much French on the new album. Maybe more German (laughs)

I'm going to give you the secret of getting better distrubution.

Be on another label?

No. On your next album you must begin the album and end the album with a cuckoo sound. And then people will buy it, because by buying it they will be feeding you.

(laughs hard) Strange guy...

If you play a show in France, do you think that you would cause a riot, the same as Stravinsky did?

I seriously doubt it. Did he cause a riot?

Yeah. The public was not ready for hsi kind of music yet.

Do you have any SERIOUS questions here?

This is a serious question.

Yeah, but we played in France, and we didn't see much riot.

Maybe the country has changed now with the liberal brainwashing.

And the snail-eating and stuff like that.

What is your favorite King Diamond memory?

I have a lot of good memories.

Did anything funny happen? Like, did you ever accidentally share the same shower with a band member?

Yes. (laughs) Actually, we definitely shared the same shower.

What about Notre Dame? Has anything unusually funny happened in the band?

I can't think if anything right now. But somebody asked me for King Diamond anectdotes, and I told this guy that when we played in Copenhagen, people threw all kinds of shit on stage. Somebody used this Coco Cola McDonald's mug and he took a dump in it and threw it at King and it missed him by inches. That is kind of bizarre, I think, to take a dump to show your appreciation.

So instead of Cocoa Puffs, it was Cocky Puffs. Or cah-cah.

Cuckoo.

Is there going to be a new member of Notre Dame named Quasimodo?

Yeah, he's already in.

William Blake said there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything that I possibly didn;t cover? This has been an informative interview.

It was, yeah.

www.snowyshaw.com



Peter Steele

Brandy, Grimoire Girl from the previous issue, has been fascinated by Peter Steele ever since she first heard "Love You To Death" on the radio. Before she became a Grimoire Girl, she asked if she could accompany me when I next interview Peter Steele. Granting the fondest wishes of women is the reason why I incarnated, so... not only did Brandy accompany me - she also conducted the interview, which was also videotaped for the GRIMOIRE INTERVIEWS DVD. There were more questions asked, but they appear on DEATH METAL: A DOCUMENTARY. We had a great time, and it was unbelievable how much wine Lord Petrus could consume. There are plenty of video out-takes which might appear in one form or another in the future, as long as the lord and master approves of such usage - for woe be the asshole who awakens the wrath of Peter Steele.. Without further doo-doo, here is the hilarious set of exchanges between Brandy and Peter Steele.



When you go out to clubs like L'Amours, do people treat you like a rock star?

Unfortunately, yes. People treat me better than I deserve to be treated. I'm the same person that played L'amour 15 years ago... well, the only difference is that I have a much lower sperm count right now.

A lot of people think you're rich. Do you still have a day job?

As long as I can walk and see, I consider myself fortunate.

The press has been known to twist your words around, like when you said rape is a beautiful thing?

No, I did not. I have five older sisters whom I love very much, and I would never like to see something like that happen to them. It was complete and total sarcasm, however, I have become used to getting quoted out of context.

Does Type O Negative have anything to do with Gothic music, or is it in a class by itself?

Do you mean, an ASS by itself? Do I think we're Goth? Honestly, the classification was bestowed upon us by the mediacs because we're all kind of tall and thin due to lack of protein and too much cocaine. If you're the lead singer, meaning ME (holds out hands in mock holiness)... if you're six foot, fuckin' nineteen inches tall, got fangs and long black hair, and your band is called Type O Negative, and you have songs like Blood and Fire, yeah - I guess it's Goth 'n Roll.

How do you feel about women?

On Type O's first album, Slow, Deep, and Hard, o had used words - and please forgive me - as slut, cunt, whore... which was not directed to the entire female populus. It was just directed towards one person. I'm pretty angry that there are some people who say that I hate women. I find that extremely offensive. Number one, there is no better person in this world than my mother. I would never disrespect her. And you know what? If you want to cal me a mamma's boy, well I'm YOUR mamma's boy too.

In your lyrics you talk about being hurt by women. Is that true, or are you using that as a way to get more women?

Well it is true, but people have called me "masogenist", "woman-hater". No, I don't hate women. I think that women are actually much better than men. I hate all people equally. I mean, shit comes in all colors. Black, brown, yellow, green, purple. We all fuckin; equally. I consider myself a specist. I hate the human species because we are the only ones, in fact, who shit where we eat... and also laughs. And do you know why? Because we know we're gonna die. That's why I keep laughing.

Has a guy ever given you a problem because you're really big - to start with you to prove manliness?

Absolutely. And this is honestly a fight that I have to walk away from because I cannot win. If



Is there such a thing as an FBI watch list, and are you on it?

Fuckin' hippy! Yeah! You know what? I don't blame the FBI. I don't blame them because, after the Waco thing, Columbine, and all this other shit, the people who executed these crimes were in the CIA, FBI, KBG, ASPCA, went into the houses and found Type O Negative CD's in there, which are, of course, worthless, but I was implicated. Hey, I got a file, but it's a BIG one.

When it comes to women, would you rather date a fan or a girl who has no idea who you are?

I would rather date someone who has no idea who I am because, at that point, we have something in common because I have no fuckin' idea who I am. If it's somebody I meet at a show, it's only because of the lighting that I look really good on stage. I'm 461 years old. My face is falling off. My colostomy bag is leaking. I fell outside. I broke my hip. I have an ingrown toe nail. My cable company shut the service off. And nobody can help me.

What kind of condoms do you prefer?

Well, I'm a virgin, so I have no idea what I would use. I would think like a ziplock bag of some sort because I'm getting old and they have this, like, buffet at restaurants. Older people call them buff-its. I love that. They always bring ziplock bags. Why? because when they thin nobody's looking, all the shrimp that's been laying there for three years - they're not even fuckin' shrimp, they're mutated pubic lice - and they're fuckin' bringing them home. I don't want to be part of this crowd!

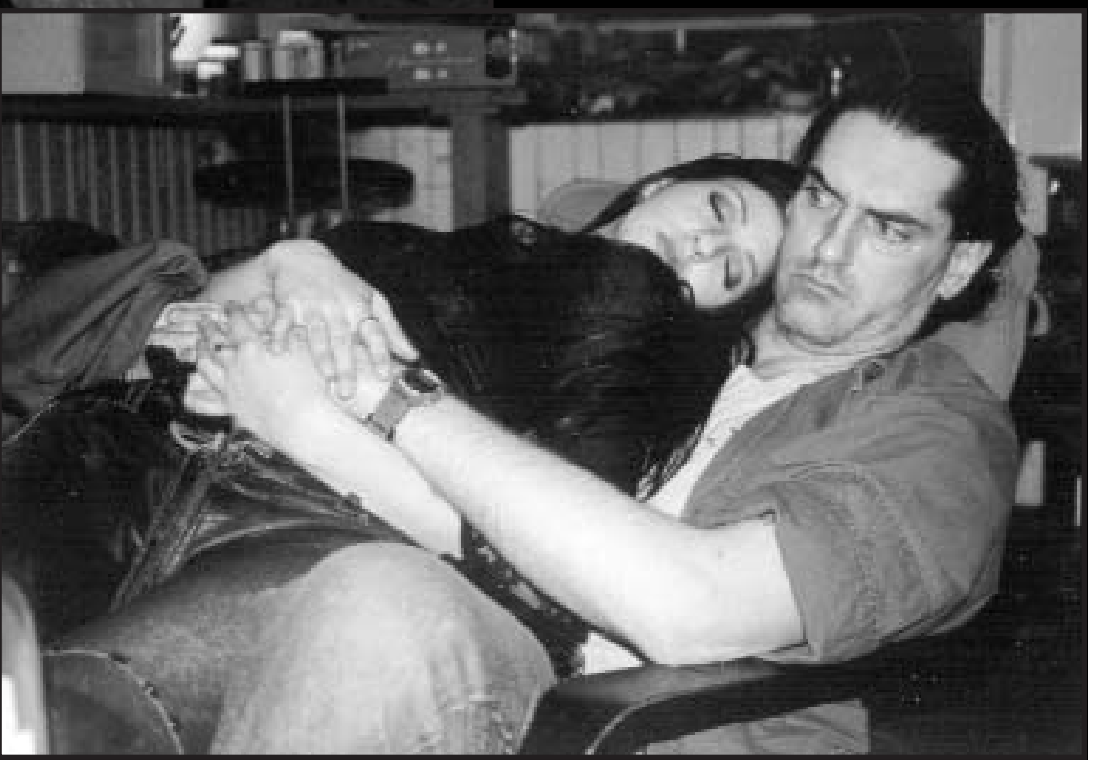
What are your sexual turn-ons?

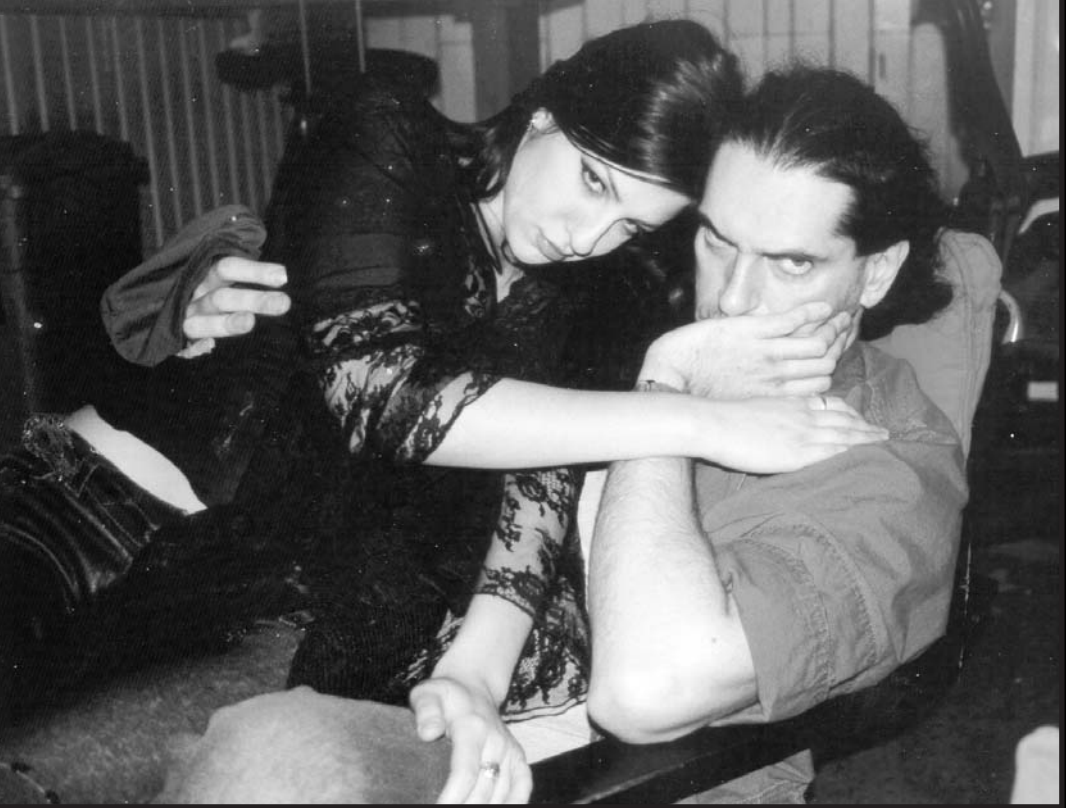
Women who are feminine. I like long hair, make-up, high heels, no testicles because that turns me off right away... I think women who smoke are attractive, actually. There's something Freudian about that, but than may be a phallusy.

I kick his fuckin' head in, then I'm a bully. If he wins, I'm a pussy.

When you were growing up, did kids call you Pete-tuitary?

Well, early in life, in kindergarten - back in the 1400's - they would call me Peterpotamus, and then later on I found out that Peter was a synonym for penis. well at least I'm a big dick with a big dick. I was born big, and it's a really crazy thing that older kids picked on me because I was taller and bigger, and yet I was still a child. But the great part about it was, like after years of abuse, between the ages of sixteen and seventeen, something happened, and my little balls became fuckin' pineapples, and I had searched out the people who had picked on me because I was a fuckin' doof - I was a target and I was a little boy in a big body. I gotta tell you that there are other people who I do remember having had done these things, and I would like to have a "conversation" with them at some point.





When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grow up?

The Invisible Man!

When Carnivore ended, did you ever think that you would be in a band again?

Let me start the story first. I went to Catholic school. I served eight years. Our Lady of Refuse, six, six, six Ocean Avenue. We were supposed to have sex education classes in sixth grade because that's when the hormones come out and the pubic hair - you feel like The Fly. Do you remember that? The remake? He's picking hairs off his back. That was me, man. So, to be a wise ass, Lent comes around, and the priest asks, "what did you give up for Lent?" I said, "Christ." The eight beatitudes - we called them the eight bad attitudes. I was always in trouble. Is there any kind of meat that you can eat on Friday, priest? So then I say "nun". What was the question? Have I ever been part of the nazi party?

Does being famous set you up for lawsuits? Would you like to share anything?

I don't believe in sharing, but I will lie about everything I am about to say. Yeah, when people think you have money, you become a target. I'm six foot, seven - two hundred and sixty pounds of low-quality meat - even if you were blind and you aim an arrow at me from eight miles away... As far as lawsuits are concerned, if you're gonna sue somebody, you should pay for their legal fees. I've got no money. I spent it all on Rogaine. Look at my hair! If you are going to sue somebody, you should pay for their representation, $500 an hour! For what? Do you promise to tell the whole truth, swearing one the Bible? Yeah, like I'm not gonna lie under oath. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm on probation, so I gotta be cool. Anybody who wants to sue me, I challenge you to a fight to the death. Three minutes in the ring, winner take all. That's what I think about lawsuits. Some fuckin' skank drops hot coffee on her chooch and gets $50 million. If I only had a chooch.



How do you get your voice deep?

Possibly genetic engineering, but I think it's more generic. I probably have more or less the same DNA structure that my father did. Same height and weight, and he had a much better sense of humor. However he had blonde hair and blue eyes.

Have you ever used the public toilet and realized that there was no toilet paper?

Unfortunately I had committed a crime and I was locked up. I had busted my hand on somebody's face. The authorities considered the cast to be a weapon, so I was isolated. The worst part of being locked up is knowing that you have to shit. When I had to use the bathroom, a cop would have to escort me. Ok, the door is ripped off the fuckin' hinges. There's no seat on the toilet. The shit in the toilet has been there so long that it has turned into rock formations. No toilet paper. So I'm, like, Oh god!" And you know, shitting wasn't so easy because, like, everybody's watching you, man. If you don't do it, they're going to laugh at you. They're going to point at you and they're going to know that you can't shit. So there's this cop standing outside, and I'm like, "Hey, there's no light in here." And he said, "Is the toilet still there? Then consider yourself fortunate." I was in labor. I straddled - I did not want to sit down on this thing. There were bacteria so big that they looked like family members. I could see faces and missing teeth. They were complaining. So I get my big thing out, and there was not paper, so I had to pull out my underwear and wipe with that... true story.

(check out Peter Steele in "DIRTBAGS" DVD)



March Metal Meltdown VI

Friday Saturday
March 12 & 13, 2004
Cricket Club
Irvington, New Jersey

All Ages
Beer Garden
Vendorville
Autograph Signings

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

SYMPHONY X, N.W.O.B.H.M. ALL STARS, MANTAS, SEVEN WITCHES, FOZZY, RAVEN, BELLADONNA, ATTACKER, THE HIXON, WIND WRAITH, STIGMATA, THUNDERCORE, PAIN MUSEUM, NASTY SAVAGE, GOTHIC KNIGHTS, TWILIGHT ODYSSEY, TWISTED, TOWER, DIRE TEOS, LACERATION, CRUCIFIER, THE APOSTACY, MERENDINE, ATOMICHE, WINTERFELL, ABAZAGOROTH

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

TESTAMENT, OBITUARY, VITAL REMAINS W/ GLEN BENTON, M.O.D., TRIVIUM METH SESSIONS, NUSE, MACABRE, ANAL BLAST, OCTOBR 31, KILLINGSWORTH, CIRRHOSIS, BLACK WIDOW, COBALT, TERMINAL FIX, COLD SUMMER SOCIETY, KAOS, ENTOMBED, CATASTROPHIC, BLODDSTORM, WITHOUT END, END UNSEEN, 3 INCHES OF BLOOD, MADBALL, BAR WHORE, BLACK DAHLIA MURDER, PREMONITION OF WAR, THE END, ARSON, FROM A SECOND STORY WINDOW, CALLICO SYSTEMS, SHATTERED REALM, ON BROKEN WINGS, REFLUX, REMEMBER NEVER, PSYCHOTOGEN

Shape of Despair

Originating from Finland, this is no ordinary doom band. Their debut, "Shades of..." was a masterpiece of hypnotic melancholy, made even more sorrowdul by the haunting soprano that wept over the demonic vocals. To listen to that album was to fall into the black river and ebb with each heave of the otherworldy sorrow.

Why were there no lyrics included in the CD insert for Angels of Distress?

Music have been always that which is the point in this. These words are more like an enchanter to a certain feelings I've had while writing this music. Anyhow, I wanted this package simple - some art work and music.

It has occurred to me that the new album does not capitalize the letters of the band name or album name, unlike the "Shades of..." album. Additionally, the lettering of the band name is different. Does that mean that there is no trademark logo for the band?

No, there is not. Maybe someday we'll have it, but for now, it changes as much as our artwork and music does. And the logo we had in our first album is very fastly chosen - same goes for artwork.

The first album was very entrancing. It made the listener into lifeless body floating on black water and being carried away. I don't like to listen to it while driving at night because I find myself suddenly realizing that I have no idea where I am and I can't remember how I got there. Did you plan to make an album that was so hypnotic? Did you inject theta waves into the mix?

Hope it have worked! Whatever you may call it, be it alpha or theta waves... hmm, good idea - have to check out some frequencies. When we recorded our demo, we just simply played the whole structures as how we felt. So we haven't had any kind of structures basically. Song structures for Shades of.. have been gathered from this demo and it's been refreshened by of female vocals, flutes, and with more keyboards et cetera. I've always loved music which is simple, repetitive, transcendental. Maybe it have affected my consciousness in composing music.

Are you a friend of the guys in Skepticism?

I met them first time at their live show in here Helsinki a couple months ago and talked a bit with their organ player, but that's it. We discussed about of possible Skepticism/Shape gig, but it's still open. I hope it works out. We should rehearse first, but it's been a bit confusing times now so our rehearsals will be delayed.

The new album is more of a crushing doom, compared to the sweet melancholy of the debut. The guitar does not lull into sadness like a gentle spirit carrying a torn mind soothingly into depths of tears, a level at a time, the way "Shades of..." did; instead, the guitar on the new album is directly mournful and flavored with a bit of aggression. Would you like to talk about the difference in emotion between the two albums?

Well I guess sounds and words may express it much better. And you have to take a look at a concept of this all also. We had a certain idea from the beginning with Shades of... songs that it should be more transcendental, as it is more of an like wandering feeling because of a time I composed those and since it's evolved a lot of an nature inspiring themes. What comes to “Angels” album, it's a lot more based on your own head. Depression, misanthropy, and most of all, lack of wishing to be alive. It's a good combination to add some aggressiveness into a beautiful-sounding scenes, as emotions tells it all, banging your head against wall as you would like to exit from all this, while still wondering twice.

The new album was licensed by an American record label for distribution here, and I suppose that it helped to expose you to new listeners even though the doom circle does not need such convenience to enjoy the works of such masters as yourself. Have you been offered record deals by companies that have international promotion, or is music of your dark making too risky a venture?

I have no idea how our 2nd have managed over there. Hope they still release our first album, as what I've noticed, they have ceased to push it forward. I think they have given a better chance, yes, to introduce us for you Americans since we are small and quite unknown to a wider audience. For what I know, our albums have been licensed to France and Russian also. I'm a bit outdated right now of this matter.

Why have you decided not to feature pictures of band members in your cd inserts? Indeed, even your names are mere initials. Why such modesty?

Well, laziness, I think. We really haven't got any need to do so and we don't care too much. There are going to be all those necessities on our next album. It's amazing that we even took any pictures of us.

Judging from the differences between the past two albums, I predict that the next one will surprise me, but in a good way. Can you reveal anything about the direction you will take?

I think I should not. We are still in "should rehearse soon" mood and all the latest changings will happen in studio, so I could give a wrong hint for you. All I can say is, that it may give more than previous one, if you are just willing to let it in.

I regret that I have not heard of you sooner, during your demo days. Is it possible for me to obtain your earlier recordings? I am quite anxious to hear the demo that has the same songs as the "Shades of..." album.

It's quite hard to find our demo, only if you have traded it from somewhere. We don't sell it, and I think that Spikefarm doesn't release it on CD. It is, more monotonous and simple compared to album version - 8-track "studio" tells it all.

What are some musical traps that can destroy a song which you avoid when composing?

If you just try too hard. With instruments, there's no limitations for what I've tried. Mood is, of course, important.

I enjoyed the albums immensely, but I wonder if you are 100% satisfied with the way the albums sounded. I ask this because you seem to have high standards and I wonder if all of your expectations have been met.

There's much what I would change on Angels album for sounds and more things to add for our first one, but in other words, it's what we've felt that what we want to do on that time, and there they are. I'm sure everyone may babble later something about of what they could've done for their works.

What happened to the last singer?

Moved to Lapland, bored to metal, quitted "singing". Anyhow, he might come and play Kantele for our next album.

Have you been forced to serve in the army?

Civil service.

Is there a prejudice against Russians or Germans over there?

I think not.

When can the world hear new material?

Hopefully in the end of this year. We start to work on it very soon. It looks like there are 6 songs to come.

www.shapeofdespair.tk
www.themist.xrs.net

Painful Meow



What can be said about this one-man project that has not already been said? How can so many CD's have been sold without a single ad, or even a single positive review?

Interview with Bill Zebub
Conducted by Bill Zebub

Let me begin by saying what an honor it is to interview you.

Allow me to respond by saying that it is a dream come true to be in this magazine!

Why has it taken so long for you to release a follow-up to your debut, Absurd Tales?

To be honest with you, I wasn't sure if the world really needed a follow-up. The debut wasn't all recorded at once. The songs were done over a period of three years, and they were meant to annoy friends. I actually made some people squirm.

So will the next album be songs done all on one sitting?

Actually, I had enough songs to release a follow up when I first made the debut. These "outtakes" are even more annoying than the songs that made it onto "Absurd Tales." I was combing through some old tapes and I found a lot of material that I didn't finish back then - there are a tapes with drum tracks and guitars, but no other instruments or vocals. Anyway, I think that what I will probably do is to record totally new songs for 40 minutes and then include the ultra annoying songs as bonus tracks for the other 40 minutes.

You're going to record an 80-minute album?

Either that, or a 160-minute double-album.

Let's back up a little. You never intended to release your songs on a CD, right?

That's right. Like I said, I only made this kind of music to annoy friends, and later on, I made it to irritate listeners of my radio show.

Why would you want to irritate listeners of your radio show. Wouldn't you lose advertisers if they find out that people are changing the station whenever you play a "Painful Meow" song?

It didn't quite work like that. It was a college radio station. They didn't have commercials. I wasn't even a student there. They had a policy to let people have a radio show - I forgot what the criteria was, but I think I got in because a couple of the staff members vouched for me. Anyway, they gave me a late slot - it began around midnight and the core of the audience was in the woods - well, all of the surrounding towns were very wooded - and from the few calls that I answered, it seemed like redneck metalheads were my main audience, and they went to bed early, I think. I had been on a much smaller radio station and the phones were always ringing, but when I landed a spot on the bigger station - 5,000 watts compared to 9 watts - the phone hardly ever rang. It really made me feel like no one was listening. So I started to annoy people by playing choo choo train noises over songs, or playing a childrens' record between death metal songs. That ALWAYS made people call. So I took it further by making my own stupid songs.

I don't really see that as a selling point.

Well, I'm getting to that. After a while, other DJ's started asking me where they could get the Painful Meow album. They were getting requests! I still don't know if people liked the songs, or if they liked to dedicate those irritating songs to people they hated.

I noticed that the CD has what looks like a sticker that reads "Buy it as a gag gift for someone you hate." But it's not a sticker - it's actually printed on the CD cover. If you buy it for someone as a gift, no matter what your intentions are, that printed message is going to make you look like an asshole.

Actually, that was a mistake. It was supposed to be a sticker on the shrink wrap. But it doesn't matter. I have received a lot of mail about how the album successfully annoyed people who were supposedly impossible to annoy.

I have to ask you this. Do you know what you are doing when you compose songs like "Eyes Creamed?" Are you a virtuoso musician, or a moron?

I have seen some really funny facial expressions when real musicians listen to the songs of that particular recording session. It's like they are on the tip of figuring it out, or something. I made those songs because of pretentious assholes. I just got very sick of them one day. I listen to music for emotion, whether it's silly, sad, or aggressive. But there are some fags who play air guitar or air drums when they hear a song. I am not talking about the burn-out who plays air guitar. I'm talking about the gaylord who actually makes invisible chords with his hands and he slides down the appropriate length of frets. Why do those fags act like that? It's either that they are trying to show that they can play what they are hearing, or that they don't get emotion out of music - to them it's strictly dexterity. That's why i hate a lot of the unlistenable jazz - it's just a finger exercize, not music. Well, I hate ALL jazz and I wish that it were outlawed.

So those songs are what you consider to be fake jazz?

No, they are my tribute to pretentious assholes. There are two basses and three guitars, each doing their own thing. When some people hear those songs, they laugh instantly becuase it sounds like a band that's totally cracked. I go overboard with the vibrato bar and with sound effects for the guitar and voice.

Yeah, you really go bananas with the pitch shifter.

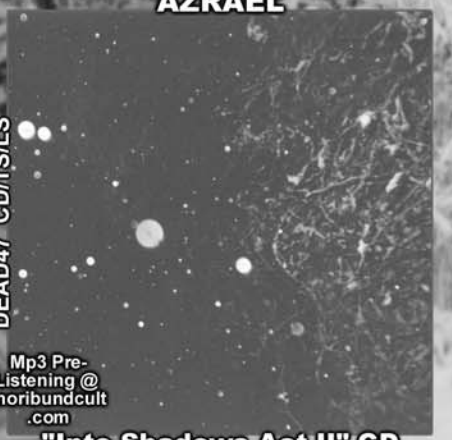
I only use a pitch shifter on certain songs. On one song, i tried to sound like an ant - something that small must have a high voice. So I altered my pitch. That song actually has a funny history. I recorded the vocals in a house and I didn't think anyone would be around for a while. Well, I decided that the lyrics were going to be about an ant who crawled inside a glass that recently had chocolate milk in it. So the bottom of the glass has some chocolately syrup. The ant thought that it struck gold ! But as it lapped up some of the delicious stuff, the syrup dried, traping the ant like a tar pit. The ant could tragically see other ants through the glass, going about their ant business without so much as a glance toward our fallen champion. I screamed these absurd lyrics. People came into the house while I was recording. They didn't hear the music, and they didn't hear the pitch-shifter effects. They thought I lost my mind and that I was on the phone with the hospital to turn myself in... they thought that I was describing my delusions to a psychiatric nurse or something. The song required me to have desperation in my voice, heh heh.

Yor CD's sell for just $5. What the fuck?

Yeah, you are probably going to lecture me on "preceived value" - if my CD is so much cheaper than other CD's people will think they are shit. Well, I don't believe in ripping people off. I actually had a stroke of luck. When I had the CD's manufactured, the company went bankrupt a week after I receieved the shipment, so I didn't pay a dime for the stuff. I also don't buy ads for the CD's - with no overhead, why should I charge $10 or more? Send $5 Bill Zebub PO Box 1987 Clifton, NJ 07011.

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AZRAEL

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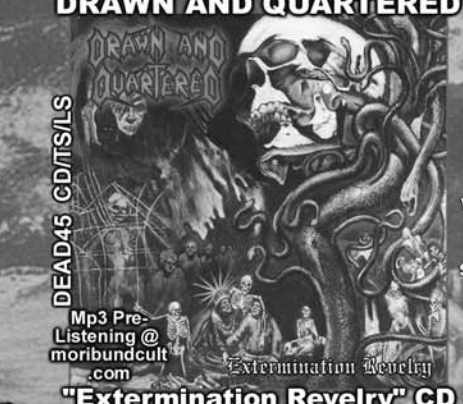
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DRAWN AND QUARTERED

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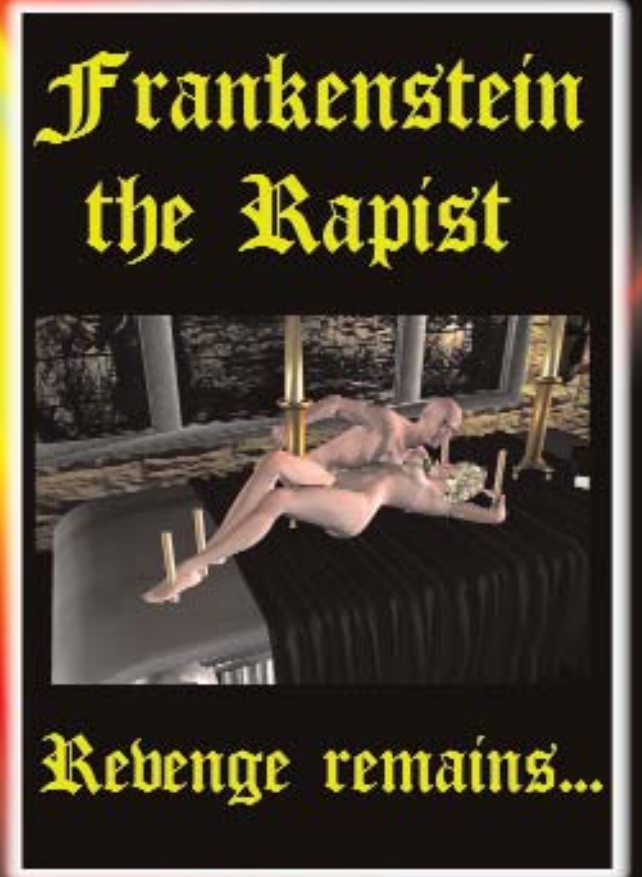
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www.musicvideodistributors.com

DVD's coming soon

Drawn & Quartered

Previous material from these guys cannot give any indication about the brilliance of the new album. They have finally achieved the title of "original Death metal" - the new album has a unique sound and style, and the presence of melodic lead guitar, as used by Drawn & Quartered, strngthens the music instead of weakening.

Do you consider this to be your "fat-burning" CD. The drums suddenly change tempo, much like a stairmaster machine which changes resistance abruptly in order for you to get the maximum calorie expenditure.

What?! Are you saying I'm some sort of fat-ass!? I need to watch my caloric intake? Hey, FUCK YOU. I've been working out, pal! Oh you think the tempos are choppy or something? We can't keep time well - that's our drummer is like a hyperactive hamster on his exercise wheel. Does that question have something to do with your Richard Simmons obsession?

If you were in Germany and made a bird house and discovered that a cuckoo bird inhabited it, would you put a clock somewhere on the outside of the structure?

Yes. Yes, I would.

The only way that a cuckoo bird would go cuckoo for cocoa puffs is if its parents detected a bird that habitually brought cocoa puffs to its nest. The cuckoo mom would then lay eggs in the host nest, and the cuckoo hatchling would then make a cuckoo sound, and the host bird would then bring cocoa puffs to it. If the sound of the cuckoo bird in any way is to make a person think of insanity, it is the host bird who is crazy not the cuckoo bird, because sometimes the hatchlings are bigger than the host birds but they still feed the cuckoo as if it were their own. It's sort of like the insanity of christians who continue to believe in their religion despite evidence about it's contrivance. Anyway, I have succesfully fed cocoa puffs to birds, but I did not see any of the chocalaty goodness being carried off. The puffs were thoroughly consumed on the hot pavement. Do you think that the birds later fested on bugs and worms in order to make cocoa puffs part of a complete breakfast?

No, because as we all know, a complete breakfast must include caffeine and THC. It's kinda like the morons who wrote their own new bible about jesus when he came to America. It's the new adventures of jesus and his pals. Like the newer Flintstone cartoons, Fred and Barney look the same but had new voices.

Are you ever going to write a song about how decieved America has become by Sonny the Cuckoo bird? He does not resemble a cuckoo bird in the least bit. Better to call him the cocoa bird.



Yes, but we called the song "Christian Extinction". It's about millions of sheep decieved by a character known as jesus. He does not resemble a savior in the least bit. Better to call him forgotten dead guy.

Have you ever wondered why lemon pie is not sour?

No, but I wonder why christians spread their sour stench on a perfectly good planet.

When did James Murphy join your band?

Never! I'd rather do the shitty solos I piece together than have some "GUITAR GOD" show off all over my lifelong dream to make a metal album.

One of the things that is interesting about your music is the prescence of melodic leads. Do you feel that they surprise a lot of new listeners?

Well check out Yngwie on the new Vital Remains album! I'm just stuck in some Black Sabbath rut. I try to make the melodies DARK, plus detuning slows you down a bit. To me, death metal should have leads, like in the '80's and '90's. I get bored by that brutal-as-fuck, no-lead stuff. Except Deeds of Flesh. And Mortician. Brodequin is cool, too. Our sound and structures allow for leads, solos, and hamonies. Our old drummer didn't want me to do solos much and wouldn't play parts long enough for me to express a melodic idea. So for the next album I came back with a vegneance with tons of solos. I did a bunch on some new songs for a split 7". There will be plenty on the new album we are recording. And I will start focusing on quality over quantity and enhancing songs with lead, solo, and harmony parts.

The vocals remind me of the early days whereby death metal distinguished itself from thrash vocally. In fact, a lot of the stuff on the album reminds me of the old times when structures were more song-oriented than riff-oriented. Has anyone called you a girl for following musical rules?

I just wanted to have some songs that flowed along better, easier to listen to, catchier. Some hooks, something memorable. I like The Beatles and can appreciate the meirts of a pop tune. Early influences such as Venom had cool sing along parts that are evil as fuck. There are a couple of bands that have just phenomenal technique. I'm not that good. I've played 20 years. I work a job. If I can do this full time, I will probably get fucking good. I can't rely on amazing technique. I had to develop songwriting skills and find people to make it work. Only musicians usually appreciate amazing technique anyway. Most people want "LOUIE,LOUIE". Finally, after writing about hundred songs, I figured out how to do it. But there is much I'd like to try.

The production is quite kooky. I especially liked the sinister sound of the guitar. Did you break your piggy bank for the budget?

No, we had an engineer who worked overtime. And I had to knock out a ton of guitar tracks in



one day, multiple layers on some songs till my arms were numb and the guitar strings felt like fuckin' ropes. I am in debt from all the guitars I bought this year and the MESA triple rectifier amplifier!

Did any of the jews at Moribund take offense to the song about the ovens?

No, but my Jewish American Princess girlfriend gave me some shit for a while until she went to the store one day and had a dilemma - pork on sale 50% off!

Are jews like lobsters? Do you have to cook them while they are alive?

No, more like oysters, cause I eat mine raw! And jesus STILL sucks!

Recently I have recieved two types of spam. One is for penis enlargement, and the constant message about my size is making me feel insecure. It's finally hitting home, and I'm starting to regard my penis as one of those things you don't mention in a job interview. These days I find myself only having sex with girls who like to be tied up and blindfolded so they will never get the chance to sigh in disappointmnt at the image of my nudity. Now I forget what the other subject was. Can you say something nice about my penis and maybe I will regain my carefree attitude and be able to focus on this interview?

No. No I can't.

Oh, the other thing that I get e-mailed about is how white people can take their country back. One of the recurring themes is for white people to consolidate, and it is recommended that they move to the northwest, where you live. I can't help but to question the soundness of this advice because your area has plenty of spics and niggers, right?

Yeah, not to mention the gooks, wops, kikes, chinks,dinks, slants, towelheads, and queers!

Do you see yourself as a leader of a new white supremacist organization?

No, I hate white people too. I think everyone should die equally, starting with christians!

But if one starts, then not all are equal. Why do you think it's hard for people to publicly admit that neighborhoods get shitty after niggers or spics infest them? The complaints spew freely when no minorities are around to hear the comments.

I had some neighbors once. Three black dudes in a studio next to mine. They were from Africa. They threw fast food garbage all over the parking lot daily. Suddenly rats and cockroaches began to appear, and never before or after they moved. I called someone to complain about the slovenly foriegners but was treated like a racist. It's not fashionable to be an honest person. It's about ignorance and the inability or unwillingness to use birth control. Uneducated people teaching more uneducated people how not to succeed in life. It's more of a socio-economic than race problem.

Sometimes parasites and pests and pests are not fought with posion. It can be easiers to use the creature's natural enemies against it. So instead of poisoning or sterilizing minorities, as extremists dream of doing, what can be used to rid us of the plague?

The government develops a form of methamphetamine that makes the disenfranchised white trash susceptible to subliminal messages secretly placed in their new Metallica records urging them to kill people into hip-hop and mariachi music. These "methzombies" go on to kill gangs and the hip-hop culture. The government counters the "methzombie" with a "crackmonster" for the sequel.

Did Odin from Moribund develop a lung problem because he accidently swallowed an anti-nigger potion that you brewed in your secret laboratory?

Contrary to popular belie,f this lung condition has nothing to do with copious amounts of herbal smoke inhalation. Due to his never ending war on god, the guy nearly worked himself to death to give you greedy, ungrateful bastards the propaganda you need to exist in your miserable little lives. By the way we have nothing against niggers! Hell everyone should have one! I don't think people should use that word any more. I has become meaningless. Blacks have seized the word and made it something cool, good, fashionable. How's about coon, spear-chucker, porch monkey or ghetto-bunny? I actually have no racial prejudices. I fuckin' hate everyone equally. Of course fucking christians must die!

Look, if he you have no balls, just admit it. It's not the same as being a coward. Not everyone in the world wants to risk getting punched in the face for a joke. But don't pretend to have balls and say, "Oh I hate everyone equally" - everyone can see through a line liek that, even a nigger. Is it true that Hawaiian Punch commercials were banned because imitative minority children started punching white people after having after having secured their trust with the offering of a fruity beverage?

And you can't punch them back, especially the samoan kid with the freakishly huge brothers, all named "Junior"

Which of your songs has the most punch?

Well it's not punch, but, the "The Hills Run Red" speaks for itself.

Can you explain what was meant in the song that had the words "Pieces of shit are killed everyday."?

A direct quote from Richard Ramirez and his opinion of his victims and other unfortunate corpses.

Is one of your guitars shaped like a swastika?

No, I play BC Rich and Jackson - no custom swastikas. I don't support loser Nazi propaganda.







Sophia

This project is known for bizarre soundscapes and frightening, militaristic percussion. Sharing some secrets with me is Peter, the same Peter from "Arcana". Full inty is on the grimoire site.

The percussion i Sophia makes me think of medieval warfare. Did you intend fo rit to sound militaristic?

On the first album i wanted my music to have a small connection to the Templars. But on the later albums, it wasn't my intention to make it that military. To me, Herbstwerk is more orchestral, and Spite more cold industrial. And the latest one a mix between both Spite and Herbstwerk.

Some of the tracks makes me think of what baroque would sound like in the mind of someone undergoing a psychotic episode. The nine tracks of Sigillum Militum were written "specifically for a live performance" - I read that by chance. How do you actually set up a live show, and does it include the haunting textures of the studio version?

I had this idea of a very special one-time live situation. I wanted to make a quite bombastic performance, with a lot of people on stage and very powerful. But I realized quite early that this kind of live performance costs a lot of money and is very difficult. Too many factors could go wrong. My live shows these days are more minmalistic, more humor on stage. Often just me and one more, samplers, and drum.

Am I correct in assuming that you intentionally compose a musical tension which builds up suspense? It is almost frighteing sometimes when the aggressive release arrives.

Often i work after a model, where I start very calm and build up a cacaphony. (ed- when you hear the noise before a classical music performance in which all of the musicians are tuning up - that is a cacaphony). This often happens unintentionally. I try to break this pattern intentionally.

In Adeptus/Last Movement, did you use a beat out of time? It sound slike you did something like that to create a feeling of disturbance.

I had an idea of two independant parts, moving into eachother. This created, as you say, a feeling of disturbance. Sophia has always been a platform for expermient, and I will never be afraid to break an old pattern and try something new.

The Seduction of madness MCD is you r musical interpretation of SATURN DEVOURING HIS SON, and although it specifically intends to depict madness, I had always felt that Sophia is like a "schizophrenic lense" through which one sees reality with a little bit more. When a schizophrenic hears or sees hallucinations, it is called a "positive" symptom because it is something that "adds" to what normal people have. Conversely, schizophrenics whose facial expressions are flat and do not reflect their feelings are said to have "negative" symptoms because something in a helathy person is absent. Sophia is music with positive symptoms, i think. My question is, how is the mini Cd more of an exploration into psychosis than your other releases?

It was actually intention of a live prformance, together with a movie backdrop. The theme of the songs was never in particular schizophrenia but more of different cases of psychosis, and I guess most of that came from my interests in psychology and after have read the book "Seduction of madness" by Edward M. Podvoll.

I will ask about Stravinski having an effect on you because he was the first composer, I believe, who broke from comfortable melodies and specialized in disturbing music, especially in the area of percussion. You sometimes lull the ear with safe phrasing and then you unleash a nightmare is this original, or inspired by others?

This is my idea of how to make people feel calm and relaxed, then start to feel uncomfortable and in the end trying to get a climax of chaos. This model is, I think, mostly for Seduction of Madness MCD. The model of crescendo has been existing for of long time. But I never took the idea from anybody else.

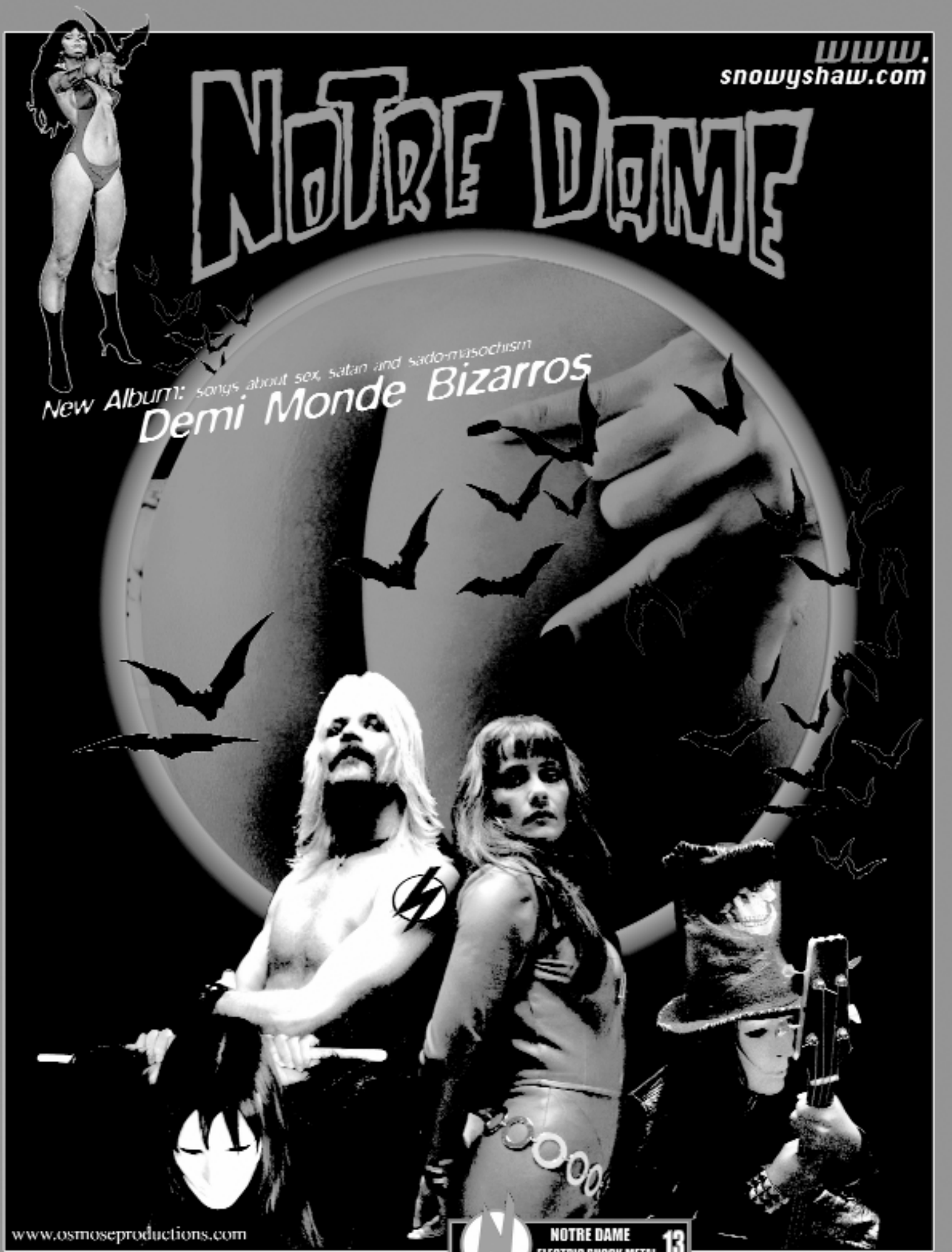
The author of ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST was under the influence of peyote when he wrote that. Did you ever ingest a hallucinogen when creating music?

No, i haven't. If you don't call enormous amount of booze and beer a hallucinogen.

American media corrupts people and spreads ignorance. People here still think that multiple personality disorder is schizophrenia, and televison, movies, and radio continue to perpetuate this idiocy. Likewise, with ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO's NEST, ignorance is spread because the cuckoo bird does not own a nest. It lays eggs in the nests of other birds, and the actual owners of the nest feed the baby cuckoo. It is akin to what niggers and spics do in America. Instead of them going out into the world and getting jobs and feeding their children, they force tax payers to feed their parasitic offspring. I woudl bet that America is your weakest market because your music is about thinking, and Americans hate to use their brains for anything other than manipulation. Am i correct?

This is a question that I don't like. I think the words 'niggers' and 'spics' is very racist, and this is nothing for me. I am against thoughts like that. In every country, there are people who live on others, and this has nothing to do with where you are from or what race you are. It all has to do with how you are raised, and what enviroment you live in, the community and social standards. Morons comes in any color. i do however see politically correctness as a threat to democracy.





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Grimoire Girl #29
Kitty D.



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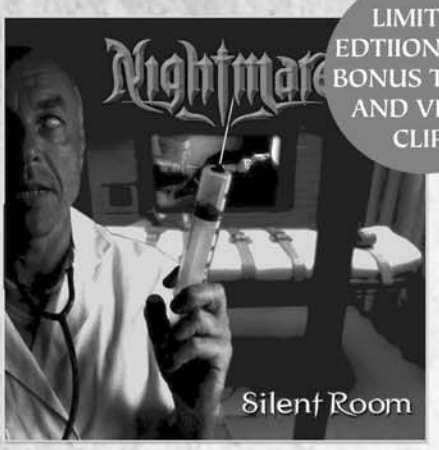
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USURPER

Interview with Rick
Conducted by Muffy Stopholes

OK, firstly, I don't know dick about metal. I'm just Bill's girlfriend. He thought this would be funny. Maybe you could clear something up for me - do you pronounce the band name "seltic frost" or "keltic frost"?
Well, probably keltic frost. I've heard them pronounce it seltic frost, so it could go either way I guess.

Basically I'm a Usurper virgin. Somebody told me you guys are like black metal, only fat?
Black metal only fat. Well... hmmm... I suppose if you wanna put it that way you could.

I got the promo and I heard "Metal Lust" and I heard lyrics like "poser assassin" and "necrotones" -- thats pretty funny...
That's not correct.

Is Usurper a joke band?
Yeah. Completely. 100%

Why does your vocalist have such a preference for vomit sounds?
Well, when you drink as much as he does every single day, you're as unhealthy as he is, it's pretty much the only sound you can make.

Are you pissed at the record label for using the word "poseur" with the gay French spelling on the back of your promo?
I didn't even see the promo. But no, I'm not mad at anyone. It's just fine. With the French spelling it just makes it that much cooler.

Can a white person use the word nigger without being racist?
Sure they can. Sure. But I think when a white person is misquoted using it to make them look like a racist, that's a whole different ball game.

Is it at all embarrassing that your record label advertises Usurper as the band that toured with Cradle of Filth and Manowar?
No. Because every label – the point of every label is to make money. So if they think that's gonna make them money, that's what they do. It's not something we do. It's their decision. However they want is fine.

Do you think that its possible that being a picky eater is a sign of sexual squeamishness?
I don't really understand.

At what point in a relationship do you think it would be appropriate to tell a person about your genital warts?
At what point? I think at the point when you're sticking your cock up their ass.

Would that be before of after the love sets in?
I think that's during the love setting in.

I like that you guys are open about your drug use and psychedelic drugs. Did you ever get into ecstasy when that was popular?
No. I think that's totally gay. I would never get into anything that would make you feel like touching someone else.

So no hand-holding or massage circles?
No. Not yet.

If you were sucking dick, do you think that you would extend your pinky in the gay way?
What, like drinking tea?

Exactly.
I suppose if that's what someone wants to do they can. I sure wouldn't.

Do you think that when Bill Zebub includes his supposedly intellectual essays in his death metal zine that it's a little like a "big person" whipping his dick out in a midget convention?
No. I think it's just somebody trying to sound intelligent to a bunch of stupid metalheads.

Is that a little contempt for the audience?
Contempt for the audience? No! I'm a complete metalhead and I'm sure a lot of people would call me stupid. That's just how society views people into metal. Especially the older you get. People just assume that it's for stupid metalheads. It's something that I think that a lot of people think about us. So that's what we're all about.

Do you have a mullet?
Do I have a mullet? No, I don't have one right now.

Are you wearing any leather or spikes as we speak?
I'm wearing leather. No spikes.

Seriously? What leather?
Jacket. It's actually a vest. It's a jacket with the sleeves cut off.

Can you tell me some reason why, when this is over, I should listen to the other ten songs on your album?
Um, I don't think you should.

Why not?
I don't think there's any reason to listen to the whole album.

What do you play in the band?
I don't play anything

Who are you?
I'm the manager.

That's absurd. Why am I interviewing you?
No, I'm just kidding. I play guitar.

Is that you with the goatee?
I don't have a goatee. Maybe that's the bass player.

I'm looking at a picture, and it's definitely a guitar.
Does it have four strings?

No, six.
I don't have a goatee. I never did. I think you're looking at the wrong picture.

Do you have a really non-metal day job?
I don't have a day job. I don't work.

How do you pull that off?
How do I pull that off? I don't know. Just what I do.

Do you guys get paid?
No, not from the band.

Are you a drug dealer?
No! I don't deal drugs. Let's make that perfectly clear in the interview.

Are you a bum?
Am I a bum? I don't think so. Define what you mean by bum.

You said you don't make money from the band and you don't have non-metal day job.
So? I mean, you can still have money right? There's other ways to make money than a regular 9 to 5 job.

Are you a trust fund kitten?
No. I wish.

Total drug dealer. Do you know where I could get some good mushrooms?
No I don't. I think... I don't know anything about that.





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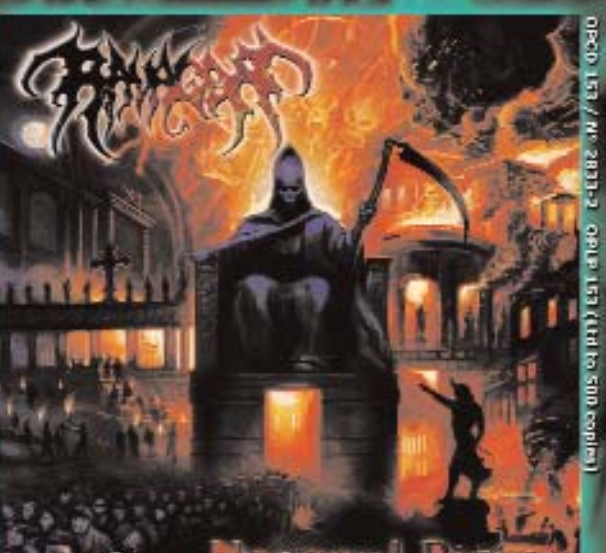


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Forest Stream

Interview with Somn
Conducted by Muffy Stopholes

Someone told me your music is "like My Dying Bride but not really" -- is this a good description?
No, no, no. They are very different - much slower and they use violin.

Some of your songs, like "Legend," sound to me very much like black metal. Do you wish you were Scandinavian?
Well maybe it sounds like black metal but its not I just wrote something about us. That's actually our first song. .

The promotional material about the band comments about the band being inspired by the hard Russian winters. Are they trying to promote Russian stereotypes?
No, not at all. They are trying to find something that would be nice to describe our music probably. Even in Holland, where I am now, when it's minus ten, it's impossible to stay outside. But when it's minus thirty that's OK in Russia.

Do you think that people don't appreciate the Russian climate because when they think of Scandinavia they think "winter" but when they think of Russia they think "Communism."
No! That's stupid propaganda. (laughs) Actually Russia is not so different from Europe.
Did anyone from your record label ask you to fake a Swedish accent while you are giving interviews?
No.

I think you played recently with Cradle of Filth. Was that a good concert?
Yeah, it was a really nice show. It was in Moscow and we played in front of 4,000 people. It was very exciting. It was a perfect show. I liked it very much. I enjoyed the show. I was talking to them afterwards. They were all great guys. Actually, it was so funny, I was adjusting some equipment and suddenly someone just slapped my shoulder and I turn around – oh my goodness – it was Dani! He said "Yea, you play in a nice band, I really enjoyed your show, so can I have your CD?" I was really surprised.

Is it true that when bands perform with Cradle of Filth they have to sign a contract promising not to pick on Dani or make him feel "small"?
(laughs) NO! Who told you that? No, no, no.

If Dani Filth picked a fight with you, would you pretend and let him win?
No, no, no! Everything was really nice, as I told you.

I read somewhere that you don't like the Lord of the Rings movies. What's you problem?
I like the book more. That's very difficult to put everything into a single movie in three hours, each part. No, it's ridiculous. Nothing can be compared to the book. That's my opinion.

I was visiting a friend of mine in Poland and he told me that the influx of corporate junk food and video games after the fall of communism is causing Poland to have its first generation of really fat kids. Has Russia experienced a similar lard-ass effect?
No not at all. There was just a difficult time in that it was hard to earn money. But it was nothing really special. That's just a matter of more stupid propaganda, watching TV every evening. It's so ridiculous.

You're studying physics right now in Holland?
Yep

Do you have plans to be the first metalhead to have success above the poverty line?
Well, I prefer to not mix these things together. Physics is physics and music is music. That's like a completely independent part of my life. Fifty percent and fifty percent. Fifty percent music and fifty percent physics.

In Russia it is acceptable for metalheads to have interests other than metal?
Well that's a difficult question. I'm not a metalhead. I'm just a normal – I'm soon to be doctorate! I can't imagine. I'm not a metalhead. Well, maybe you can call me metalhead because I like concerts, but that's just a different audience. I'm not from the audience. I'm up on the stage and it's a big difference. That's a different part of our society I would say. It's not that common to put physics and black metal together. I think you can hardly find any case like that in the world. Well, maybe one of the guys from Behemoth, I heard they have a similar situation. One of them is doing some science or, I'm not sure what. I don't know. But that's not very common.

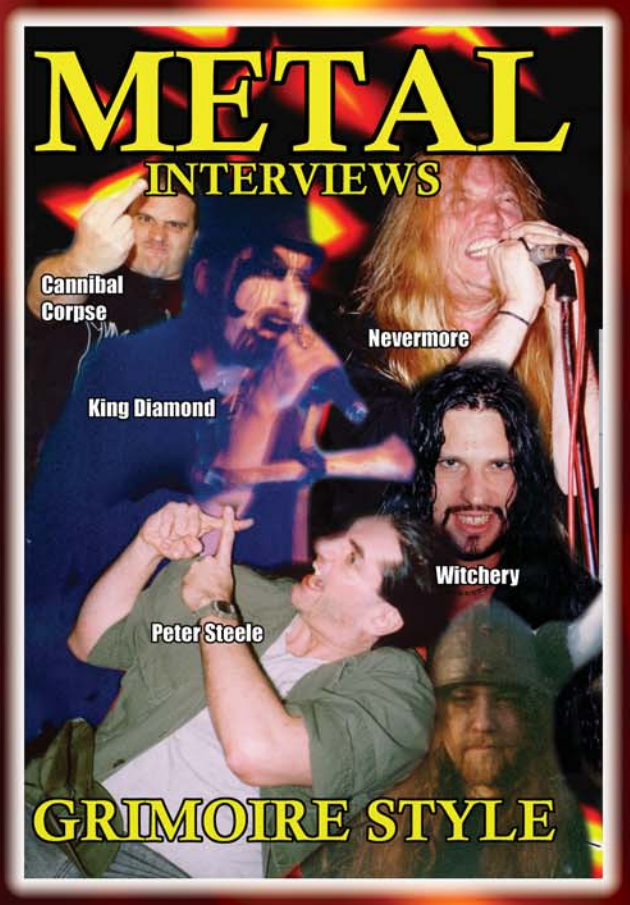
Is it distracting for you to study in a country where you are constantly surrounded by the temptation of drugs and prostitutes?
(laughs) I'm not using drugs. And I'm not using prostitutes! No, no, no. That's OK, that's not my style. I never tried any drugs. Not a single joint. That's my philosophy – I'm trying to keep my brain clear.

I looked at your online forum, and I see that you make a lot of the posts there. Are you your own biggest fan?
Yes, that's exactly who I am. That's part of my life. That's really part of my life – I would say maybe sixty percent, more than half. I simply cannot live without it. It's a nice place to talk to people, different people. Because in Russia it's not so... not so friendly. We have our own resource on the internet. I enjoy these metal – UltimateMetal.com – very much. I feel at home.

If I were a real journalist writing about your band, should I used words like "epic" and "symphonic" to describe your music?
Maybe. You can use whatever you want, if you like.
Would you be upset if I described it as the sonic representation of my period?
You can use whatever you want. As long as you're happy with that. I think it's just music, why should we classify it? I think it shouldn't be imprisoned in the style or whatever. So we can call it whatever, black metal, I don't know, silly symphonic, blah blah blah... whatever.

(ed- The album is even more boring than the personality of this jackass)





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Christina's Reviews

Christina handles all of the POWER METAL content

Dreamtale -- Ocean's Heart

Heavily influenced by Helloween/Gamma Ray type of bands. It's not a bad album, but like the problem with a lot of bands, there is nothing new here really. As I get to the later parts of the album it seems to be dragging on and being more repetitive. They have a couple of guest vocalists that appear. A male vocalist appears in 2 songs and he has the voice of a growler and close to being a death metal type vocalist, and it makes the music sound heavier, which is a good thing, so my favorite parts are when he appears. I would make him the new singer, but regrettably he is not. The female guest vocalist appears on the song Tears. Her clean soft vocals, then come in the death style vocals, - an interesting mix, but it's only for that one song. The music is comparable to a Helloween type band, but the songs just don't go that extra bit to be anything special or new. There is potential here, but they are not there yet. 5 out of 10

Dark Moor -- Dark Moor

This is a very impressive release. Power metal with a symphonic feel, with added choirs and a guest soprano vocalist on the title track - an 8-minute masterpiece. I can't find many flaws with this. The choirs add to the songs and make it seem kind of horror movie-like. Jose Garrido and Enrik Garcia make an awesome twin guitar attack. Vocalist Alfred Romero has a unique voice and I can't really say he sounds like many I have heard. The drums and bass are pounding throughout, and the songs just dont let up. Even the instrumental works well here. Highlight tracks are the title track, Wind Like Stroke, and The Ghost Sword. This is one of the best things I have heard lately that is different and fresh from most power metal bands. Check this out if you can stand classical music moments and want to hear a band let it rip. 9 out of 10

Axenstar -- Far From Heaven

Melodic power metal. The keyboards are too prevalent. I think of a keyboard in metal music as in the background and adding to the music - not being a main instrument. Sometimes the guitars sound like they are in the background. For my tastes this is just to melodic and too commercial. Can't really call it "power" as there is not much power. Yes, it's fast and speedy, but it's not original, and every song just goes by with nothing new and exciting. You've got your typical "Let's do a ballad so girls will like us too." Where is the originality with some of these so called "power metal" bands? 1 out of10

Tarot -- Suffer Our Pleasures

Coming from Finland, they have a somewhat progressive sound, with hints of old Queensryche coming out, and that sort of metal style. On the plus side - a great cover, good opening track with "I Rule" and "Follow The Blind" being a good heavy rocking song, and if they would have stuck with those kinds of songs I would have been more interested, but there is just too much keyboards and too much commercial type of progressive metal. Music seems to slow down or tone down so you can hear the vocals better, which leads to slow singing, and that makes me wince in pain. "Of Time and Dust" is one of the slow numbers that just drags on and it doesn't take long to hit that skip button. "From the Void" starts out promising, with heavy riffs, but again it slows down when vocals come in. "Painless" ends the album with what sounds like a song to highlight how well they can all sing to bad. It just annoyed the hell out of me. And it sure was not painless. 2 out of 10

Vhaldemar -- I Made My Own Hell

Hailing from Spain, this 4-member lineup definitely have the Helloween type of sound with some Manowar and Maiden mixed in. Your typical power metal outfit with not many surprises. Musicianship is top-notch, with fiery guitar licks and solos, pounding drums, and patented metal screams. Stand out tracks include "Steam Roller" and "House of War ". "I Will Raise My Fist" is melodic and galloping like Maiden. They have a typical metal ballad that could be done without. Two instrumentals are included, which at first listen, are good examples of their prowess musically, but really I see no reason for them. Lyrically, this band could use some help - some of the lyrics just making no sense at all. I am assuming it's the translation from Spanish to English. And if they are hoping to make it in North America they really need someone to convert their webpage to English so people can get some info on them. If you're into power metal, I am sure you will enjoy this piece. With some guidance this band could break out. 6 out of 10

Beseech -- Souls Highway

BESEECH have been around since 1992, so somebody must be listening. This release is a gothic rock piece. Two vocalists with this band - clean female vocals, and the male vocals are a rip off of Pete Steele of Type O Negative. The music is slow and, well, gothic. I can't say I have ever listened to any so-called gothic metal, so maybe this is good, but for me it's a waste of time. This is not even close to "metal" in my mind. "Souls Highway" is the only track with only the male vocals, and it,s tolerable, but the mix with the female vocals just make it sound alternative and no place in my musical library. I would have a more enjoyable time being run over by a green Lincoln in the Stonetown over and over again. I am sure my screaming in pain would sound better then this. I think ABBA is heavier then this. Don't look here for heavy guitars or killer solos or powerful vocals, but if you are on your deathbed this might make it an easy transition into your next life. RIP. 0 out of10

You may drop Chistina a line, c/o Bill Zebub PO Box 1987 Clifton NJ 07011

FUNERAL

DO YOU REMEMBER THE ALBUM "TRAGEDIES" THAT WAS RELEASED BY ACRCTIC SERENADE? AS FAR AS MOST PEOPLE KNEW, THAT WAS THE LAST THAT THE WORLD WAS TO HEAR - BUT IN TRUTH, THIS BAND HAS RELEASED SEVERAL DEMOS AND NOW GRACES THE DOOM SCENE WITH A POWERFUL NEW RELEASE THAT IS SURE TO CRUSH EVEN THE MOST STEADFAST HEART. GATHER COURAGE, FOR YOU WILL WEEP FOR HAVING SLEPT WHILE THIS BAND RECORDED MASTERPIECE AFTER MASTERPIECE, ONLY TO FALL UPON THE DEAF EARS OF A SCENE THAT DOES NOT SEARCH ENOUGH...



The world has been under the impression that Funeral is dead. I know that many readers will be overjoyed to hear of your continued existence. Let's go back a bit. For many people, the only taste of Funeral was from the TRAGEDIES album. During that era, I heard rumors that Funeral was changing style, but that was not entirely false. The soprano singer actually wanted to move in a jazz direction, right? Would you like to talk about how difficult she was to work with and how hard it was to let her go in the end?

We are definitely not as easily put to death, for sure! Yes, we have run into some difficulties, to say at least, especially with our female members over the years. And Toril, the singer on "Tragedies" actually was a jazz singer. She didn't want us to change into jazz, but she wanted the vocals to be" jazzed up" so-to-speak, which of course was totally unacceptable to me! Toril also got some primadonna vibes over her, and HAD to be kicked out. But the main reason was actually that she couldnt sing properly live.

Will TRAGEDIES be re-released? I heard that the guy from Arctic Serenades owed money and trades to other labels and made excuses like *"Due to the many heart attacks and suicides at the record label..."* Did you regret signing with him?

Yes! "Tragedies" will be re-released! But I have no date or record label as of yet. The Arctic Serenades guy was insane. He actually had serious mental problems! We were young and naive. I definitely regret signing with him.

If it's not an open wound, would you like to discuss the suicide of your bandmate? Does it seem especially tragic now that you have made the best album in doom history?

Well, *"the best album in doom history"* are *your* words. Nice to hear that someone like it, though. No, I don't mind discussing Einar. He was greatly involved in recording the *"in fields.."* album, and he actually played all the guitars on track 4. He also wrote most of the lyrics. He was a fan of the band, and believe me, when he was offered the job in Funeral in '93 he was overwhelmed. He said he felt like Jason Newstead of the Metallicatz. Cool memory that one. But I don't want to go into the details of his suicide. That's just for his family and close ones. He was mentally ill, diagnosed with manic-depression. This, sadly enough, killed him.

Was he vital to the songwriting? What happens now?

Yes, he was one of the driving forces. As mentioned, he was actually more of a poet than musician. He wrote poetry all the time. He was more involved in the early years with composing and he had more of an extreme doom-metal approach, which didn't fit the "newer" Funeral material. I have much of his material on tape, though, and I will do something with it. Maybe in Fallen, my solo project, with Einar's lyrics, or maybe in Funeral. We havent replaced him in the band, and are currently without bassist.

I have never heard demos of such exceptional quality before. Have you invested every last piece of silver that you owned intothe bandand have been left withno luxuries?

Thanx for the kind words. I have always believed that sound quality is of high importance. And yes, we have sometimes used quite a lot of money, but mostly we have rented a cheap studio and done sound mixing ourselves, and really become better and better of it. I have never used all my money on the band. Always have something left for beer and women I say!

I am quite ashamed of myself for never having learned of your three demos until just recently. The taste of them that I now have makes me feel like I can never call myself an undergrounder again. Were they for the general public or strictly for record labels?

We pressed some flyers in '93 and '94 and tried to sell some demos, with little luck I can say. The later demos we just sent to record labels and some very few magazines. Some of



the early material will reappear on coming releases..

The two songs that I heard from the '97 demo have the best operatic vocals that I have ever heard. Who was that angel, and did it cost yo a king's ransom to have her record with you?

The girl singing on the '97 demo is named Sara Eick. She sadly quit right after that recording. She was a talented one, that bird, allright! She was actually in some TV shows as a singer some years ago - some sort of talent program. She came from Drammen ,our town of doom, and I managed to persuade her to join with my charm.



Throughout the history of Funeral, were the operatic singers band members or hired musicians?

They were all band members, believe it or not.

I don't have your TRISTESSE album. When did that come out?

It came out late '93, and was just a CD release of the first demo.

Who was the soprano singer on that album, and which label was it released by?

I was the soprano on that one! No, there were no soprano there - just me and Einar trying to make nasal sounds. It was released by the most shitty American rip off label in metal history: Wild Fags, I am sorry to say.

There are cuckoo birds in clocks here. Those birds live in Germany. Do you think that people who own such clocks are secretly showing their allegiance to the Nazi party?

Yes, I absolutely think that's true! Funny you should mention NSDAP, as I am a bit of a war history freak you might say. I am also into collecting Third Reich items and have my own little museum in my house. An intriging hobby, I can tell you. Norway was invaded by the Germans. There are quite a lot of history and items found here. Actually, lots of my familiy was directly involved in the war in illegal partisan work. One was actually a prisoner in Auschwitz. He was caugh in a student uprising against the regime. He survived and became a reknowned lawyer with a "tattoo" on his arm. Well, this was a bit off the loop. Fascinating theme. I could discuss for hours. We have to take that over some beers another time!

Is Pardigma a dead band?

I am sorry to say I think that's a dead one. They recorded an album with Einar on vocals around 5 years ago. It has never been released. I have some contact with the band leader in Paradigma, but I haven't heard he has been involved with any band-related things for ages other than being well involved in mastering lots of metal releases through his work.

You have absorbed one of its members. How did that happen?

It was quite the opposite, in fact. Einar joined Paradigma long after Funeral, just as a side project for himself.

Have you ever come across Liv Christine, singer from Theatre of Tragedy, in the old days? Would she have made a good member of Funeral?

Yes, I met her some 8 years ago, when that band was still a fairly enjoyable doom band. She liked my hair in fact! Maybe something more?! Yes, I think she could do a fine job in Funeral with that light angel-like voice.

Do you get angry when you see advertisements of albums with "female operatic vocals" when the stupid bitch on the album is untrained and is nowhere near the opera style? I have wasted countless dollars on bands and labels who deceive the doom lovers. All bands should follow your example and only allow a goddess to sing,

Well, it is another stupid way of fooling people to buy your record, I think. Even if the "soprano" sings in a high scale, she isnt an operatic singer, for sure. Yes, as mentioned, I am very much a follower of high quality in every specter!

Have you noticed that some black metal bands adopt sorrowful names for songs, yet the music is total garbage and completely devoid of sorrow? Do you think that they cause doom fans to become more cautiouos about trusting doom imagery?





Yes, you should definatly NOT mix the two genres! Two totally different things! But if a Satanist wants to be "sorrowful" who the fuck cares!? I dont know about the doom imagery, but I think, for a certain extent, you should follow up the old doom-traditions in some ways, to be considered a doom band!

Do you know if Thergothon is dead?

Didn't they release ONE album about 30 years ago? I think it's a dead one, no doubt about it. I got there first demo years ago, Extreme stuff allright!

Your present style is a bit more aggressive than the early days. There was a 17-minute song on the first demo, and the music was utter despair. Your new album has quite a lot more melody, albeit melancholy. How did you arrive at this path?

Well, as every human and musician, one evolves. We became a bit angrier maybe, and wanted a bit more musical challenge, I think, after a while. Not to mention that Angell begun to write a hell of a lot material in that "newer" vein. We liked what he did and used it. I think it fitted more to the soprano vocals and harmonies to shorten things a bit. I absolutely think we are still toally Funeral though, with same kind of harmonies and atmosphere, just a bit harder and shorter songs. I very much miss the slooooow things, thats why I started up Fallen back in '96, because of much of the material I wrote didn't fit into the "newer" Funeral.

Your solo project, Fallen, has quite a warm distortion which reminds me of early Black Sabbath, but more full. You let me hear a song that is super slow. it has a bit of the old feel with regard to tempo and the sinking doom. It's interesting that you have chosen male, dark, clean vocals for this. Do you have a record deal yet?

We are in negotiations with some record labels, but no deal as of yet. I chose dark male vocals because I knew Kjetil and knew his immensly great singing, and I think it fits perfectly into the massive sound in Fallen.

On Tragedies, there was a beauty-and-the-beast contrast with death metal vocals and the heavenly operatic singing. On the new album, with the exception of one song, it is completely operatic. Believe me, there are no complaints because you have made a ground-breaking album that is, I dare say, perfect. Was Tristesse also like this?

Yes, we also used this contrast on "Tristesse". But, as mentioned, no "beauty" there, just me! I think we came up with something that was groundbreaking at the time, but as time went by, I really grew a bit tired of the thing, so I dropped the whole death gruffing thing, to Einars dislike, I must say. Not to mention that every band on earth after a while wanted to do exactly the same. But as a musician there are really no musical challenge in "composing" death gruffs. It's so more interesting composing melodic vocals, harmonies and choirs. - MUCH more challenging, and in my opinion, much easier to create a certain mood. But I see the effects of death gruffs though. It's easy to create an angry mood, and I think it finally worked out again on the last song on "in fields...".

Is there a deal for American distribution? I don't want Funeral to be overlooked.

I am not really sure. I don't think there are American distro. Hey, arent you into cd sales? I am sorry to say that our record label has a rather bad distro everywhere in fact. It's even impossible to get our album here in Norway! But , it's underground allright!!

I was actually going to offer to release your demos on a CD, but I see that someone is ahead of the game. I will, of course, be happy to pick up a ton of your new album for my own mail order because I totally support what you are doing and I want to help you to succeed, even though history has shown that great composers are not recognized as such in thei rown lifetime.

Thanks a lot to you, and your support of Funeral. (to readers) Take a look on our web site, www.funeral-doom.tk From time to time, there will come lots of info, pictures ,sounds, and so on. We will also put out unreleased material there. I also want to use the opportunity to mention my 3rd project called CyanEyed. Some heavy shit coming there. It's the solo project of Funeral guitarist Angell. I do the drumming. It's a strange hybrid of technical doom. We also have the vocalist and guitarist of a band called Tømmermenn - tommermenn.com - a very good and heavy band. We will record a 4 track demo soon.



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Metal Monster's Reviews

Epica - The Phantom Agony - (Transmission)

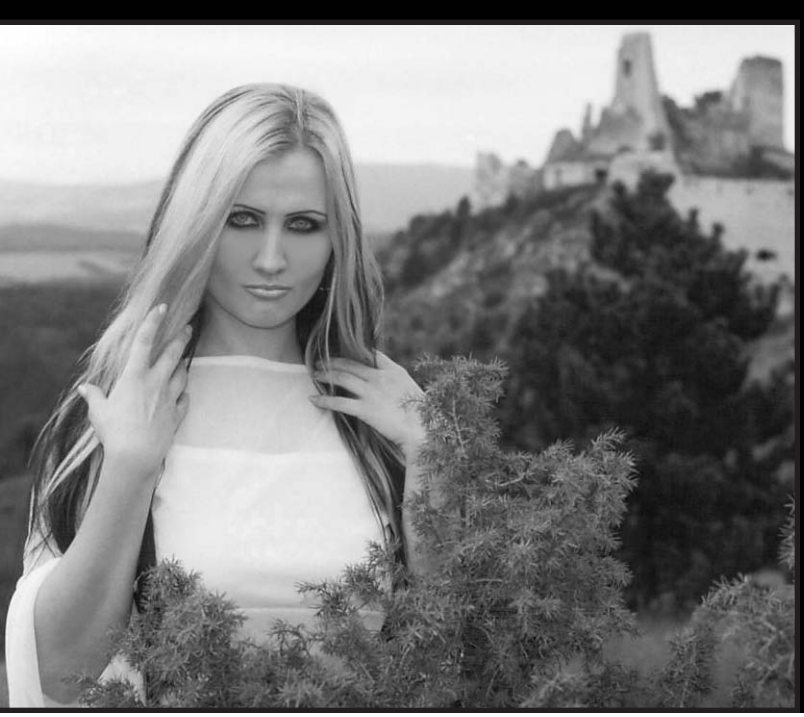
If it weren't for the operatic soprano, this CD would be used to protect my desk from coffee spills. The music is cheesy pop metal and so upbeat that faggots can get their total morning aerobics done without having to touch the stereo. It sickens me how that beautiful voice is so misplaced on this cliche bullshit music. It almost has the feel of a broadway play - which translates into total gayness. Nightwish is another band that takes that feel-good and be-a-fag approach, or at least their first album was that way (and that was enough for me to stay clear of any other releases the same way that I don't drive down a street that has a fag bar). The singer should definitely get involved with a band that is more expressive, or at least has more creative integrity than this bullshit gang of fags. After all, what satisfaction can you really get from painting-by-the-bumbers? Well, the band does take sort of an antichristian approach, but not with too many balls. Hopefully they will see their mistakes and make use of that gifted singer's voice. ☺

Reverend Bearre - Harbinger of Metal (Spinefarm)

I don't know if I spelled the band's name right, but if I didn't, that's what they get for being gay with their logo. They would be gay even without the logo, with lyrics like "Don't be afraid even though it's getting late." Only a nigger would think that "afraid" rhymes with "late." This is fake stoner doom, and I think that the riffs only make sense to someone who is high. The fuzzy distortion is more suitable for real musicians who know how to make use of it. The vocals are the cherry on top of the faggot sundae. I have never heard a fag begging to be queerbashed more fervently than the total homo who for some reason thinks that he can sing. Yeah, the vocals are clean and blatently untrained and embarrassingly untalented. This album should come with a parental advisory, but only for parents of same-sex marriages. I'm waiting for a law to be passed that forbids this album to be found anywhere but gay bars. And who was the asshole who thought that it was a good idea to record a 20-minute song with just two riffs? ☹

Houwitser - Damage Assesment (Osmose)

These sick puppies just get better with each release. This is a perfect death metal album. The songs are different from each other, and each one boasts originality while still keeping solidly to the death metal essence. I'm sure that these guys are quite happy with the production on this album - thick, crisp, and totally loyal to each component. Drums, guitar, and vocals are each given proper attention, and as such, the ear is delighted. There is not really a band to compare them to, but this album reminds me of some of the tasteful songs of Cannibal Corpse. Each song begins with some sort of battle sample, but I haven't yet gone past the experience of just listening to the album as-is. Maybe after a few hundred more listens I'll tear open the lyrics and discover the theme, but for now this is just too good ! ☺



Funeral - In Fields of Pestilent Grief (Nocturnal Music - nocturnalmusic.net)

Let me just begin by making you aware that you NEED this album. The soprano is heavenly and sorrow-laden, and the music underneath the vocal mastery is superb. In their earlier days, FUNERAL were pure doom, and now they are so much more - having enriched their sound with a variety of other elements, all the while melancholy. This is the most original album I have heard in a long time and I cannot let you stand by and watch the band die - that is what indifference will do. Do not wait for this to hit your stores (if it ever will, for the record label does not have superior distribution) - go now and support these true innovators. Their craft is far from common and you must reward them for their toil. When you get the CD in the mail you must immediately skip ahead to track #5, "When Light Will Dawn" - the voice chilled me, and I still can't listen to it without freezing in place. This is one song which is impossible to guess the next note - the voice flows from pitch to pitch almost magically, and the intervals are astounding. To the ear, it is a game of familiar and unfamiliar. How fitting that this band should call themselves FUNERAL - I want their music to be heard when I am presented in my coffin. Even those who come to mock me will leave with not one dry eye. ☺

Defiled - Divination (Season of Mist)

Have you ever heard Pavor? These gooks remind me of that German band, but they fuck around with timing a lot more. Yeah, you guessed right. This is a technical death metal band, but that's not always a bad thing. Instead of sounding pretentious, they sound sick. People who hang around with niggers probably won't be into this - they can just stick to their hop metal (which is really just gay hardcore with some burpy vocals). I don't know if I can recommend this because it might be too fucked up, but I think that the bizarre twists are cool to listen to because they sound more like a product of a madman than of a musician trying to get a compliment, and that makes it really enjoyable. I wonder if these guys mad emoshless death metal because of fags who do those fake kung fu moves in the pit. ☺



Cult of Luna

Interview with Johannes Persson
Conducted by Hekkatie

(Kate) Do you think that prolonged exposure to your album could induce suicide?

(laughs) No. I hope not. I think that suicide is a thing that... there's a lot of different factors that can push someone over the edge. I know that too from my own experience. But actually we got an Email just a few weeks ago that said that our music has given him the inspiration to carry on actually.

(Kate) I was only complimenting you on your ability to convey despair and dread musically. Was this the intention?

Well, um... kind of. I don't know. We tried to make an album with the theme of seeing your own faults and, well, its about self realization actually - to know your place in the world - to understand your place in the world so you can move on and see actually what's happening around you.

(Kate) A lot of American hardcore kids seem to be very "politically correct" and they do nice things like charity work and they're "straight edge" but then they get to the show and they are the most violent people in the world. Do you think that has anything to do with depriving oneself of sex and drugs and a proper diet?

(laughs) I don't know. I'm vegan. And I was drug free for quite a few years. But I'm not violent, I don't know. I'm very sexually active though. But I don't know, I haven't been to the U.S. I don't know how the general hardcore kid is but if they really live without having sex, I think they probably have some kind of energy to get rid of, so probably. I'm against violence. I hate it actually.

(Kate) You guys have reality-based lyrics. In the song "Circle" you talk about Sabra and Shatilla and I'm afraid that some metalheads will think you are talking about some mythical monsters. Do you want to say anything about the subject of that song?

What happened was, militia with support of the Israeli army got into these refugee camps and killed 5,000 people in one night,. Women, men, children. They just killed as many as possible, by the help of the Israelis and the help of the Ariel Sharon. So he is responsible for what happened. It was a big atrocity that no one has ever been sentenced for, so, I hope that's enough for any metalhead.

(Kste) In the song "Inside Fort Meade" you select a quote from Benjamin Franklin that I think for American's has a lot of significance about surrendering our liberty in the name of security. Are the Swedes feeling oppressed as well?

I think the Swedes do feel that America is more of a world gangster than a world police. I don't know if that's the answer to your question really.

(Kate) Anything that you say is fine. Do you think that it would be depressing if you were a nice little hippy artfag and you went to design school for years and years, and then you had to spend your career designing war logos and graphics for news stations?

Yes. That would be devastating. I would imagine that if you are designing war logos that your hippy days are over.

(Kate) Going off-topic a bit... have you ever heard of New Jersey?

Yeah, is that kind of like hell on earth?

That's funny, because I was going to explain it as the armpit of the universe. They have a lot of bad roads and toxic waste dumps and the clever nickname "the garden state." Anyway, do you think that it is really bad karma on my part that my soulmate is a fat, old guy from New Jersey?

Yeah, that sounds like the alarm bells are ringing. That's your soul mate? It depends though, if it is an intelligent, fat man from New Jersey, that is ok. He isn't that intelligent that he wouldn't move away though, so it doesn't look too good.

Would you be upset if I didn't use the term "apocalyptic noisecore"?

I would be glad if you wouldn't use that term.

(Kate Do you think its funny to call someone gay over and over again until they get really mad?

No one here gets mad over being called gay. We're a liberal country. I would enjoy it. There are a few people who are homophobic and I love making fun of them. I'm as heterosexual as heterosexual can be. I have no problem with my masculinity. I can kiss guys and do stuff just to annoy them. I have no problem with that. If they are homophobic they should be punished. So I think that's a good way to punish them.

(Kate) Is there a musician you would go gay for?

Justin Timberlake.

(Kate) Do you think that the popularity of circumcision among American men is proof of a massive Jewish conspiracy?

I don't know. I think if you gave me five minutes I would probably come up with an interesting answer. I'm just overwhelmed by that intelligent analysis.

(Kaye) Do you think that being European and hardcore is a little like being American and black metal?

Doing your thing but in the wrong element? Generally in black metal you have to be European. Or actually Norwegian. But to be hardcore... that comes from the United States. Well you have a point. Well no, you don't have a point. Black metal is sort of a theatric thing and hardcore is more of a... I don't know. It's more of a... outlet of music and black metal is just... I don't know.

(Kate) My dog is totally black metal. He has corpsepaint. Its amazing. But the other day, at dogs' school, he let another boy dog hump him. Do you think that that's proof that black metal is gay?

People who use corpse paint use it to shield themselves from who they really are and I think that, that's probably proof that every black metal – or every corpsepainted guy – is gay. I'm pretty sure of that. Your dog has proved the point.

Christianity is a Lie



What is it that blocks otherwise intelligent people from looking objectively or critically at Christianity? Is it like overlooking the defects of a loved one? Is it denial, like refusing to see the signs of drug abuse in a loved one? Is this how the myriad contradictions are reconciled within the believer's mind? While all religions are fabrications, Christianity deserves special investigation because of its aggressive history, namely in the forced conversions and the murderous removal of opposing sects. It is this very sort of abusive power that has controlled what the masses hear, but anyone who wishes to discover the true origins is by no means completely blocked. It is not an ordinary thing, however, for someone to actually research history, especially when it applies to religious farce.

The one thing that is common to all forms of Christianity is the myth of the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus. It should be interesting to note that the story of the resurrection did not exist in the earliest manuscripts. Further, the Gospels were composed during times when hundreds of Jews were being crucified each week. They were written for a Greco-Roman audience. If the events did actually happen, the obvious role of the Romans in the trial of Jesus as well as his execution "had to be whitewashed and presented as sympathetically as possible" (Holy Blood, Holy Grail 348). There was absolutely no criticism of Roman oppression, nor any mention of Jewish revolt. The Jews were cast in the role of villains, but this is historically illogical because they (the Sanhedrin) had the right to pass death sentences. They did not need Pontius Pilate. Further, if they had wanted Jesus to be killed, he would have been stoned to death, not crucified. Crucifixion was exclusively used by Rome to execute the enemies of Rome. It was never a Jewish form of capital punishment. If he really was crucified, he did something to provoke Roman wrath, not Jewish wrath.

The three Synoptic Gospels have Jesus being arrested and condemned by the Sanhedrin on the night of the passover. This could not be real history because the Sanhedrin, by Judaic law, were forbidden to meet over Passover. The Gospels state that the arrest and trial occurred at night, but the Sanhedrin "were forbidden to meet at night, in private houses, or anywhere outside of the precincts of the temple" (Holy Blood, Holy Grail 349).

The story of Barabbas being freed in exchange for Jesus is pure fiction. Two Gospels describe a Roman custom of freeing a prisoner during passover festival, but no such policy ever existed on the part of the Romans. A Roman procurator, especially someone as ruthless as Pilate, would likewise never consent to the pressure of a mob.

Pontius Pilate, as he is depicted in the Gospels, appears to be a decent person who consents only reluctantly to the crucifixion of Jesus. History paints a different picture of him. He was a procurator of Judea from A.D. 26 o 36, and he was a cruel and corrupt man. Why is there no criticism of him in the Gospels?

Another historical impossibility in the crucifixion story is the removal of the body of Jesus from the cross. According to Roman law at the time, a crucified man/woman was denied burial. The person was left to the elements, birds, and animals, which completed the humiliation of this form of execution.



There is no verification of a significant crucifixion in the writings of historians such as Philo, Tacitus, Pliny, Suetonius, Epictectus, Cluvius Rufus, Quintus, Curtis Rufus, Josephus, nor the Roman Consul, Publius Petronius. The crucifixion also was unknown



to early Christians until as late as the Second Century.

The punishment for robbery was not crucifixion. The New Testament accounts of the crucifixion depict two thieves being crucified along with Jesus. Crucifixion was never the penalty for robbery. On the other hand, the Romans spoke of Zealots as 'Robbers' in order to defame them. Zealots were crucified because of their crimes against the Roman empire.

Muslims have never attributed the crucifixion of Jesus as true. "And they killed him not, nor did they cause his death on the cross" (The Koran, Surah 4). Although the premise of this essay is that all religions are fabrications, it is interesting to note how they regard each other.

"Messiah" is a term that Christians think had specifically been applied to Jesus, but for people living at the time of Jesus, the idea of a divine Messiah "would have been preposterous, if not unthinkable" (Holy Blood, Holy Grail). The Greek word for Messiah is Christos. The term generally referred to a king. For Zealots, the term implied a lost king, someone from the bloodline of David who would liberate them from Roman tyranny. In one Gospel, the lineage of Jesus is traced to David, which is ironic because his father is named as Joseph, which contradicts the myth of the immaculate conception in which Jesus is birthed by a deity as well as a mortal woman.

"Many of the now-called persecutions of the early Christians were due solely to the fact that they were criminal activists, not religious devotees. As Marcellinus Ammianis (c. 330-400), the famous Roman historian said of them in his time, 'the atrocity of the Christians against opponents surpasses the fury of wild beasts against men'." (The Bible Fraud 96) Rome was tolerant of all religions except Druidism. They resented religions that presented political rivalry.

Gospels that do not appear in the New Testament, such as the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Truth, and the Gospel of the Egyptians, were mentioned by the early church fathers, like Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus, and Origen. These texts date no later than A.D. 150. What is interesting about them is that they escaped the censorship and revision of the later Roman orthodoxy, and they were written for an Egyptian audience, so they weren't slanted to the Roman ear. The Gospel of Thomas was unearthed in 1945. This, and other works that were salvaged, are collectively called the "Nag Hammadi" scrolls. In one such scroll, Jesus speaks:

> I did not succumb to them as they had planned and I did not die in reality but in appearance, lest I be put to shame by them. . . my death which they think happened. . . their error and blindness.. . . And I was laughing at their igno rance.
>
> (Holy Blood, Holy Grail 381).

Fundamentalists believe that the Bible is actual history, and apparently they believe that totally different stories are equally valid. According to Luke, when Jesus was born he was visited by shepherds. According to Matthew he was visited by kings. There are many such contradictions, and the validity of any is questionable, if not utterly fictitious. For instance, Nazareth did not exist during the lifetime of Jesus, but it did exist at the time of the writings which occurred much later.

It wasn't until A.D. 325, at the Council of Nicea, convened by Roman emperor Constantine, that it was decided, by a vote, that Jesus was to be depicted as a god, not a mortal prophet. A year after this the Council of Nicea, Constantine ordered all works that challenged the official orthodox teaching to be destroyed. In A.D. 331, he commissioned and financed new copies of the Bible. It was at this point that crucial alterations were made, and the new status of Jesus was fabricated. Constantine never converted to Christianity. He was actually baptized when he was on his deathbed, completely unaware.

The Bible is only a *selection* of works. It has been subjected to drastic editing and revision. One ommission from the Gospel of Mark, which gives a different account of raising Lazarus from the dead, depicts him as calling out from the tomb, never having been dead in the first place. After which, the passage reads:





> And going out from the tomb they came into the house of the youth, for he was rich. . . and in the evening the youth comes to him, wearing a linen cloth over his naked body. And he remained with him that night.
> (Holy Blood, Holy Grail 321)

Clement freely acknowledge the existence of the secret Gospel of Mark. In a letter to one of his underlings, a man identified only as Theodore, Clement writes in regard to people who criticize Church writings: "Even though they should say something true, one who loves the truth should not, even so, agree with them" (Holy Blood, Holy Grail 319)

On no subject has the world been more blinded or deceived than that of the church's portrayal of the character and integrity of the presbyters. "In the early days, the New Testament was oral. During that time, the presbyters were beggared entertainers of the public, and nothing more" (The Bible Fraud 165). For the first 300 years, the church had no organization and the clergy had no special title. They were called presbyters. The word originally meant 'old man' and when it was simplified into Old English it was changed to 'preost' which today is 'priest'.

The three presbyters credited with the founding of the church were Irenaeus (115-202), Clement of Alexandria (160-215) and Tertullian (160-210). In The Canon of the Bible. Professor Samuel Davidson said of all of them:

> The three presbyters of whom we are speaking had neither the ability nor inclination to examine the genesis of the documents. . . No analysis of their authenticity and genuineness was seriously attempted. . . The ends which they had in view, the polemic motives, their uncritial incon sistent assertions, their want of sure data, detract from their testimony. . . The very arguments they use to establish certain conclusions show weakness of perception
> (The Bible Fraud 166)

The presbyters could not agree about which stories or writings should be publicly spoken. The scandals of their debates were embarrassing to the later church and many records of these deliberations were suppressed. One of them, Eusebius (260-339) is on record saying 'It is an act of virtue to deceive and lie, when by such means the interests of the church might be promoted'.

One of the most vocal critics was Celsus, who wrote a book called 'True Discourse' which was destroyed by the Fifth Century Church. He wrote:

> They openly declared than none but the ignorant were fit to hear their discourses and that one of their rules was 'let no man who is learned come among us'. They never appeared in the circles of the wiser and better sort, but always took care to intrude themselves among the igno rant and uncultured, rambling around to play tricks at fairs and markets"
> (The Bible Fraud 170).

Toward the end of his life, St. Augustine confessed that Christianity was 'a religion of threats and bribes unworthy of wise men'. Ironically he is called 'Doctor of the Church'.

St. Jerome, a transvestite who was taught to read and write Hebrew by an old monk, was paid a large sum of money in A.D. 382 by Pope Damasus to reword and restructure the Bible, which later became the Vulgate Bible. He was commissioned for this task despite being accused of heresy for preferring to read Pagan literature.

The presbyters had strange beliefs. They believed in the Phoenix, and Clement said that he saw it. Origen not only believed in the Phoenix, but he insisted that the sun, moon, and stars were living creatures who were rational because they moved across the sky.





He argued that because stars could only be seen at night, the air was populated by demons. St. Justin Martyr believed in demons and said that they were the offspring of angels who had sex with the daughters of men. He went on record saying that the insane were possessed by the souls of the wicked who had died in sin, and claimed that this possession was proof of the immortality of the soul. Theophilius claimed that the pain of childbirth and the fact that snakes slither on their bellies is proof of the story of Eden. Tertullian believed that the hyena changed sex, and that the stag renewed its youth by eating poisonous snakes. He also taught that volcanoes were the openings of hell. They also thought that the Garden of Eden was not on earth.

The presbyters of the Second. Third, and Fourth centuries developed the Christian texts. The earliest version of the Gospel of Mark had no mention of Mary or the virgin birth, or any of the prophesies about a Messiah. It did not have the term "Son of God", and it did not contain the family tree which links Jesus to King David. In it, Lazarus was alive when Jesus came to him in the tomb. It also did not contain any story about any resurrection.

Rabbi Ebion authored the Gospel of the Hebrews (Essenes). The presbyters had a copy that they falsified and later named the Gospel of Matthew. Rabbi Ebion's document was the original Hebrew language version of the Matthew Gospel, and there are some alarming differences. Most notably, it did not contain the first two chapters that are read today. It likewise has no story of any resurrection, no family geneology of jesus, not any Old Testament references to Jesus fulfilling prophesies. The Catholic Encyclopedia now states that the first two chapters of the Gospel of Matthew were added in the Third Century. The earliest form of the Gospel of John, like that of Luke and the others, do not have the story of the virgin birth. In A.D. 374, St. Epiphanius listed 118 passages where the later Gospels differed from earlier manuscripts.

Many of the earliest texts that were written that were originally included in what would become the New Testament were later removed and suppressed, like the Gospel of Peter. It was said to have contained heresy.

Emperor Constantine ordered all presbyters to attend a council in Nicaea in 325, and they were to bring with them their manuscripts. The council, over which he presided, was to decide what Christianity was, and which writings were to be used. It was at this council that it was decided to preach that Jesus was divine, not just a man. This was a bitter debate. Arius from Alexandria, and his followers, argued against the notion. Nicholas, whom the Santa Claus myth is based on, was so enraged at Arius that he punched him. Arius was later poisoned. The whole affair became so violent that Constantine called on the army to restore order. After a process of elimination whereby surviving representatives were permitted to vote, Jesus became a god by a vote of 161 against 157.

Constantine instructed Eusebius to compile a uniform collection of writings from the collection of presbyters' manuscripts, with the instruction "make them to astound!" This was the first Christian New Testament. Constantine decrees that these were to be considered the "words of God". Constantine proclaimed Jesus to be the "Prince of Peace" although that title was originally bestowed on Augustus. The New Testament was also to be bound with the Old Testament to give the appearance of combining the two religions. Constantine then ordered that anyone possessing the earlier manuscripts should be beheaded instantly. E also sent Joseph of Tiberias to Jerusalem to construct a small temple over the site of a





cave that was to he referred to as the birthplace of Jesus. He offered bribes for influential people to accept the new creed.

Constantine issued edicts forbidding other sects to hold meetings, and many were put to death. After the council of Nicaea, various records were forged to establish that Jesus was a historical personage. One such fabrication was inserted into the writings of Josephus (which has long since been exposed). No such passages were found in any copy of the works of Josephus prior to Eusebius.



I t should be noted that Constantine drowned his wife in boiling water and killed his son, which is hardly the way that Christians like to depict him.

The Roman Catholic Church apparently inherited Roman cruelty and lust for dominion. No other Christian sect was tolerated. The Cathars, in France, like many others, rejected the notion that Jesus was in any way divine. Further, they denied the validity of all priests, bishops, et cetera. To them, there was no intercession between a person and his/her deity. They doubted the story of the crucifixion, and they certainly saw no relevance in it. They regarded the cross as an emblem of Rex Mundi, lord of the material world, which was a world that they rejected. Their common ideal was that life on earth was to transcend matter and to renounce anything connected with power.

This denial of Roman Catholic authority met with tragic consequences. In 1208 Pope Innocent III ordered their extermination. Over 30,000 Cathars, which included children, women, and the elderly, were brutally massacred over a number of years.. Those who escaped the sword were burned alive and subject to other horrific deaths.

In A.D.1607 a committed of 47 men took two years and nine months to re-write the Bible, which is now called the *King James Bible*. It removed seven books from the Catholic version. King James chose Sir Francis Bacon to edit the manuscripts. It should be noted that the earlier Greek versions were not written until around the Fourth Century, and before that, the writings were in Hebrew and Aramaic.

Since the Dead Sea scrolls were found, close associates of the Vatican were placed in dominant positions in every phase of the translation. Priests regulated the flow of information and controlled its release. J. Edgar Hoover commented, “It can be held certain that information that is withheld or suppressed contains truths that are detrimental to the persons involved in the suppression” (The Bible Fraud 51)

Flavius Josephus recorded that the Essenes considered it a grave sin to reveal anything to outsiders. Dr. Barbara Thiering boldy claimed that the Dead Seas Scrolls dated from the time of Jesus instead of before his birth. The official dating of the Dead Sea Scrolls was based on writing, but the writing of the scrolls is in cursive, which cannot be dated. Additionally, dating had to allow error of up to sixty years because the scribe can be very old or very young. The Dead Sea Scrolls described a way of hiding information in stories. The stories would themselves have meaning, but beneath the surface lurked important details, which in Dr. Thiering's interpretation were secret histories which needed to be protected from the marauding Romans. The word "pesher" is used to name the procedure. The authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls used the "pesher technique" when they transcribed Old Testament books, like when they wrote about Babylonians marching toward Judea, but the message is really about the Romans during the time of the writing of the scrolls. Part of this technique is to give words special meaning. Applying this to the New Testament, where the word "wicked" appears, as in "wicked men" the passage refers to "the wicked priest" so particulars are made out of universals. (The Wicked Priest is a figure described in the Dead Sea Scrolls, and scholars bitterly argue as to the true identity of this character. Some argue that it is Jesus.). If the hypothesis is to hold, the "pesh-

er" must be true in every instance of the term, etc.

Dr. Barbara Thiering thusly removes the supernatural essence of the New Testament stories and gives their political significance. The raising of Lazarus was nothing more than Jesus rescinding the excommunication of a friend. The virgin birth describes how Mary conceived Jesus while in the second marriage to Joseph, an Essene. The Essenes had strict dynastic wedding rules, and Jesus was of the line of David. During the second marriage, which followed the first (same couple), the woman was called “virgin” and was not to conceive. It was because she had conceived during this stage that opponents regarded Jesus as illegitimate, according to Dr. Barbara Thiering. It is also revealed that Jesus married Mary Magdeline (which is one of the items that were omitted from the New Testament Gospels), fathered three children, and lived until at least the age of 65.

People should act on facts, not beliefs, especially when beliefs have undergone such a drastic change over the centuries. The god that the Christians collectively worship today was originally four gods. Ashtoreth was openly worshiped by the Israelites until the 6th century BC. She was the wife of El, the supreme male deity, and they were together the Divine Couple. Their daughter was Anath, Queen of the Heavens, and their son, the King of the Heavens, was called He. As time progressed, the separate characters of El and he were merged to become Jehova. Ashtoreth (Ashera) and Anath were then similarly joined to become Jehova's female consort, known as the Shekinah or Matronit.







The name Jehova is a late and somewhat Anglicized transliteration of Yahweh, which itself is a form of the four-consonantal Hebrew stem YHWH into which two vowels have been interpolated. Originally these four consonants (which later became a sort of acronym for the one god) represented the four members of the heavenly family: Y represented El the Father, H was Asherah the Mother, W corresponded to the Son, and H was the Daughter, Anath. In accordance with the royal traditions of the time and region, God's mysterious bride, the Shekinah, was also reckoned to be his sister.

In practical terms, the cementing of the Hebrew ideal of the one god did not actually occur until after their 50 years of captivity in Babylon (586-536 BC). When the Israelites were first deported there by Nebuchadnezzar, they were effectively disparate tribes belonging to at least two major ethnic streams (Israel and Judah), but they returned to the Holy Land with a common national purpose as Jehovah's chosen people

There is quite simply no reason to adhere to laws made by semi-savages who had very limited understanding of the world, or more specifically, science. It is illogical to regard the words of the Bible as true because of the numerous revisions and mistranslations.. If the words are indeed “eternally true” then they should never have to be removed or altered, but that is not the case, and so they are, by this very argument. false.

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King Diamond



King Diamond is also King Midas, because whatever he sings on turns into gold, whether it be guest vocals on a Usurper song or Guest vocals on a Probot song. Speaking of guest vocals, King Diamond toured with a soprano singer ! If you have the new album, then you know that her presence was necessary, but even if she hadn't graced Puppetmaster with her heavenly vocals, it was absolutely amazing to hear her on stage - she added quite a lot to the music. It would be incredible to hear King go another step and have a demonic choir back him up when he does songs from Abigail, but that is probably a bit too much to expect. However, King's true fans have cause to rejoice, for King will gift us all with vintage footage from the old days on a DVD !!! Hail Satan !



I heard the Probot song. How did that come about?

A guy contacted me on behalf of Dave. He sent me a... what you would very rough version of the songs. Of course it's not Mercyful Fate or King Diamond style of music. But it's a pretty cool thing. It gives a lot of space for vocals, actually. I asked them what they would like - high voals or low vocals. "Just make sure it's King Diamond."



I thought that the song was a little bit bluesy for a King Diamond song. How did you feel about laying down vocals for something that does not bear the true musical essence?

Did you mean as far as the production or the actual music?

Well, the production was a bit raw.

Yeah, you are right. (ed - this dialogue was lost due to technical problems, but King was talking about atmosphere and mixing. It is against the policy of this magazine to paraphrase - if we don't have the exact words, we do not misrepresent the artist).

I heard that Andy LaRoque is mixing a live double CD.

he's not mixing yet. We're going to be mixing probably in mid April. We are also working on other projects. We're trying to collect material for a possbile Mercyful Fate retro DVD and a King Diamond retro DVD. No fan has ever had hands on this stuff. There was stuff before Michael Denner was in the band - before we got signed. Very good video quality. There was some live stuff where I could hear EVERYTHING that was being played. That was amazing. (ed- audio problems prevented a true transcription of the rest of the details, but there was mention of Andy having a video camera handy for the Conspiracy tour). There is some very interesting stuff. It's a matter of editing. What do you do?

Do you just take the best parts and give those to the fans and then leave them wondering where's the rest of that show?

Incidentally, Snowy Shaw is going to be in this issue, and he wanted me to tell you hello.

Oh? Did you see him recently. Is he out touring again? Tell him hi for me.

You've heard about the guy from White Zombie getting a budget for a horror movie. I haven't seen it.

No, me neither.

I'm just wondering if it ever occured to you to get a budget for one of your ideas. You wouldn't have to be worried about the cinematography because the director of photography can take care of that. You can just concentrate on the characters and the story.

What I might do is is talk to two guys regarding this - to get a script done. that's the way to go. Nobody is ever just going to listen to a CD and go, "Yeah." (ed- again, many details were lost due to equipment failure - sorry). I don't know much about how to go about getting a budget.



It's about time that your stories were represented in a film form. When a fan reads your lyrics of hears your songs, there is already a theatre of the mind. It would be helpful to see your vision on film, actually. Maybe some of the people at Metal Blade can hook that up for you, or even to front the budget and hire a crew.

That kind of money I don't think they have. (ed. more loss of audio, but King understands that the writing of a script is the first step and he appeared quite motivated).

Whatever happened to you rbook, "Gramma" - will you ever return to that? Is that a lost cause?

It's not a lost cause. It depends on what happens. It's not a thing that is worth talking about, really, because it's still there lying on the floor with only three chapter written. That's where it is now. The time situation - everything is good for the King Diamond band right now - there's a lot of prjects in the making. It's busier than ever, it seems like. That's of course not a complaint. If someone comes to me with a million dollars and tells me to take a vacation from the band to write a book, then I might consider it.

I was wondering if you heard about the propaganda movie that Mel Gibson did about your friend, Jesus.

I've seen the commercials on TV. That's all.

What I am very much afraid of is that this movie is going to be percieved as fact, and it's pure fiction. For one thing, even if the gospels were true, they sometimes contradict each other, and some events that occur in one do not occur in the other, and combining all of them is making a story that no one ever wrote in the first place, even though the gospels as they are vastly different from the earlies texts. I was wondering if you think that it is damaging for a movie like this to rally the most narrow-minded people in society. Movies of this tone are meant to gain sympathy, and in my opinion, it is symathy for a villain.

I don't really think it's going to change anything. I don't know if you have seen any of the shows like The O'Reilly Factor...

No, I stay away from half-truths.

(laughs) Well, it seems that people are already outraged. It seems to be setting up an internal war instead.

(Don't forget - there is a video interview with King Daimond available ! Get the METAL INTERVIEWS - GRIMOIRE STYLE DVD www.musicvideodistributors.com)





...To Not to Be
by Ladislav

There was a ring of light around the moon, almost like a halo. What was it that caused that effect? Did that only happen on bitterly cold nights? It was a beautiful thing, and rare to see. How fitting that it should be the last image.

How calming a scene like this would have been once. She looked out onto the sand that appeared white, like crushed glass. Beyond, there was no light from the town. This was a dead town, and a dead beach.

Big black rocks were stacked atop each other and assembled into a formation that cut into the ocean. What was it for? To save the sands? But for her it was more of a way to cheat the waves, to be with them without being in them. From the shore, the jagged rocks lay like thorns too big to be consumed by the water.

As she navigated though the treacherous blades of stone, she wondered how much work it required to heave these boulders into the water, and how something could be more relentless than the waves. Nothing lasts forever.

Before long, she reached the end, and, sitting at the end of the rocks, surrounded by deep water, she tied a rope through the holes of two steel weights.

Another chance to see the beauty, and to find something, anything, to keep her here. It was so cold. The pain felt good on her face. Her breath became a silver cloud before her, glowing against the black water.

The waves were slow, as if the ocean were thick. Staring at the rise and fall once soothed her, when no other solace could touch her. She had come here in secret many times to quiet her mind.

When had the great changes begun? Joy had slipped from so many things. Hours would pass whenever she sat down, and only when hunger became extreme would she rise from bed. And in all that time, she could remember nothing of her thoughts. How strange. No radio, no television. Nothing.

Soon enough she couldn't explain why she should live. It wasn't a contemplation of suicide, really. It was more of a search for where to go. There had always been something that kept her going, or else she was too distracted by life to give the questions any notice. But the fuel had run out.

Coming home one night and entering her dark bedroom, a memory came as she was about to turn on the lights . She froze in place, unable to shake it. And then pain began to build inside her head. This was no metaphor. The memory was hurting. It was a searing pain that started inside her head - a physical pain.

Tears leaked out of her eyes like blood from a cut, a dry wound at first and then a flow that felt cold against the skin. She slowly sank to her knees and stopped breathing until the agony subsided. Then she leaned back and felt the horror of sadness.

It was hours until she made her way into bed, and even then she was in a dumb stare. She had returned to the void, a place without feeling. No joy, but no sorrow. And sleep crept into her, taking her further away.

When sunlight blasted her eyes awake, it was another paralysis of apathy that kept her in bed until shadows deepened from the dying day. Hunger had been ignored too long, and when she rose to make her way toward sustenance, it was only a few steps before she fell.

Her back was ripped by something sharp, or so it felt. But nothing could compare to the torment of the previous night. Gritting her teeth, she continued her mission toward the kitchen.

Food was bland. All food was bland. It was a chore to push it down. Eating was just another pointless ritual, a thing without meaning. The rest of the waking hours would be spent aimlessly, and then a brief rest would begin the cycle again.

What would revive her spirit? There were songs that had healed her in the past. These songs meant nothing when life was superficial and she was distracted by laughter or goals. The secrets of the songs could only be unlocked by pain. Listening to that music while anguished was like being bled by leeches. The music expressed what she felt but would never say, and so she was freed, in part.

Donning headphones like the crown of pain, she pushed the button that had launched so many inner journeys before. The familiar sounds came into being, but they were only sounds to her now. They were like the chatter of a crowd, the roar of a jet soaring overhead, the noise of the street. There was nothing special in the songs anymore.

So this was it. She was completely disconnected from the world, from herself, from life. There was no bond to keep her here. It was time to go. And henceforth all thoughts related to her suicide.

In the past, there was a certain love of her pain. There was beauty in it. Some of the things she had done in life, looking back now, may have been done for a new dose of sorrow - the secret wish of her soul. All of her accomplishments had been borne from sadness. She could never imagine for grief nor heart to be so heavy as to make her end her life.

This was the opposite, in fact. She was empty, and had been devoid of feelings for some time, with the exception of that mysterious hurt in her head, but it was physical and not the passion that had felt good while it crushed her so many times before.

And then the dreams came. The first one was in a field by an abandoned warehouse. Wooden palettes were formed into a structure that resembled a rollercoaster. Her old friend who had always been full of mischief asked her to climb the absurd architecture. She had never consented to any of his notions of fun, but it was a long time since she had seen him. He guided her, telling her what to use for foot holds, and up they went into the daunting heights. Somehow a truck had been positioned at the top of the structure and it served as a tunnel. To get to it was a problem. The palattes that had served as ladders had at this point been stripped of many of the "rungs" - and through them she could see how dizzyingly high they were. It dawned on her how unsafe they were. Her friend climbed over her to mock her apprehension, and he hurried to the top. He called out to her to follow him into the belly of the truck. She could not see, from her angle, what was in there that excited him so. She began descending, bowing her head so as not to show her shame, her cowardice. His tone was sad upon his last pleading call, and when she looked up, he bore the same expression of betrayal as when she last saw him in life, when she deserted him for his own good. And suddenly she realized that the clothes he was wearing was what he had worn in his coffin.

Yes, her dead friends were calling to her in her dreams. Why was she hesitating?

If there were an afterlife, could there actually be a concept of punishment? Was there a consequence to giving in to the urge to die? Superior beings do not teach by punishment. But even if they did, what could be worse than present life? At least punishment would be pain, would be feeling.

But how to do it? If the blood vessels in the throat are compressed by choking, unconsciousness results in less than a minute. So drowning was not as horrifying as she once thought. It would be less than a minute of discomfort.

Completing the knot around her ankle, she stood up and hoisted the steel weights into the water. When she saw the moon again, it was through the water.







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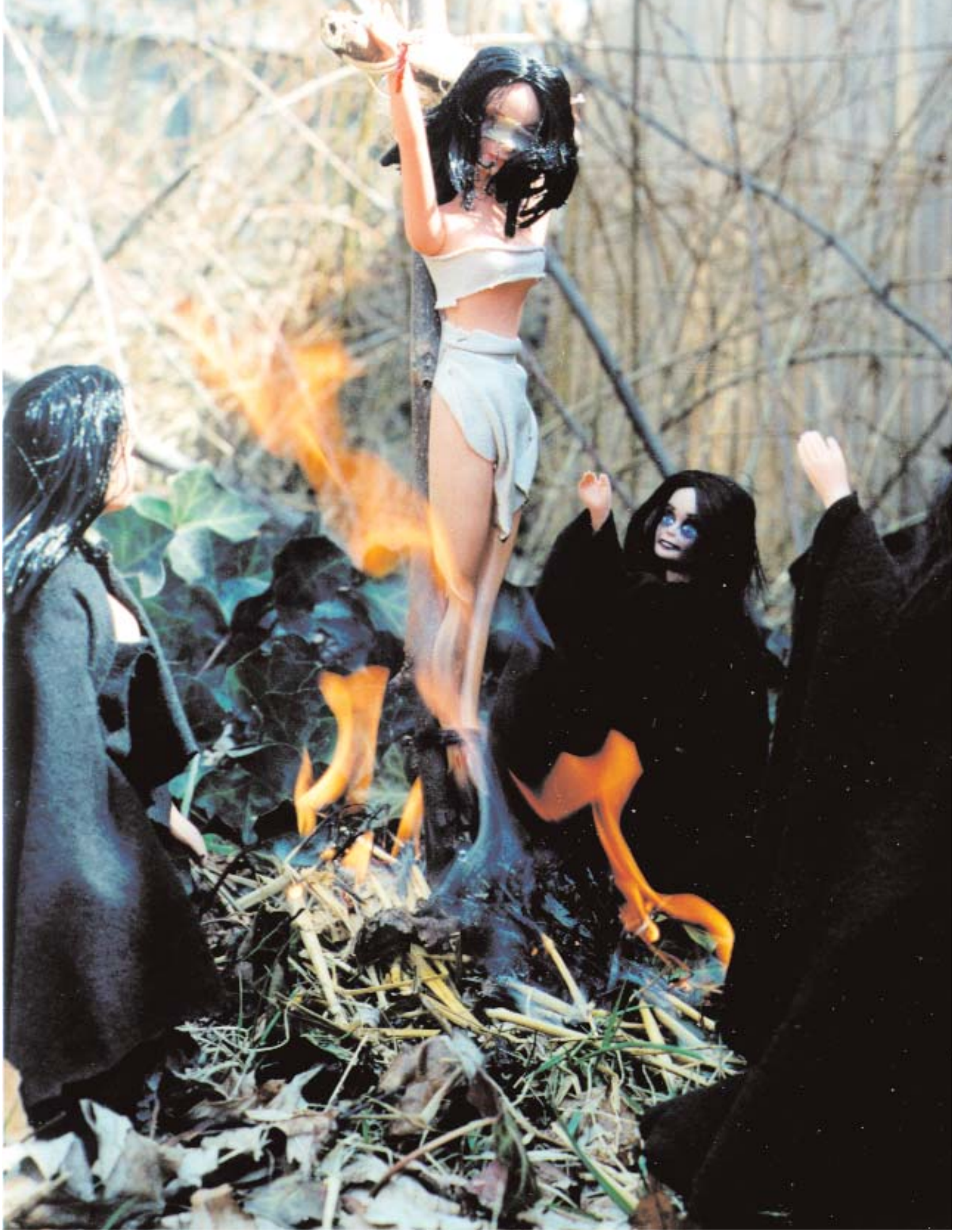

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Artist's depiction of Bill Zebub as "Professor Dum Dum"

Painting by Jeff Gutt.

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